VCU MAGAZINE

FALL 1976

VCU MAGAZINE

Fall 1976
Volume 5, Number 3

Table of Contents

2 Cross your fingers, vote and hope
Dennis W. Johnson

7 Clearing the air on MCV admissions

11 A modern day Stone Age man

14 When will we teach Johnny to write?
C.W. Griffin

18 Dial the Health-Line for cancer answers

22 Good times here are not forgotten

25 Did you know...

28 Whatever happened to...

George B. Roycroft
Editor

James L. Dunn
Director of Alumni Activities

Anne-Marie D. Eggleston
Assistant to the Director

Mary Margaret Coleman
Alumni Records Officer

VCU Magazine is published quarterly for alumni and friends by Virginia Commonwealth University, Alumni Activities Office, Richmond, Virginia 23284. Telephone (804) 770-7124.

Copyright © 1976 by Virginia Commonwealth University

Cover: An "urban camp" turns Richmond into a summer "classroom" for six-to-ten-year-olds. See story page 23. Illustration by Dian Ameen, from a brochure published by VCU's Center for Continuing Education.

In good company

Along with all of the hoopla of July Fourth came an announcement from Washington of a different sort. Immodestly speaking, it proclaimed *VCU Magazine* as one of the nation's best university magazines. The designation by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), a national educational association headquartered in the capital city, included two "exceptional achievement" awards: one for overall excellence in publishing and the other for public affairs content.

For its 1976 Bicentennial Recognition Program, CASE assembled a panel of judges, headed by Michael Janeway, executive editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, which chose *VCU Magazine* and ten other university periodicals for exceptional-achievement-in-magazine-publishing awards. The other institutions represented were Harvard, Princeton, Brown, Cornell, University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame, and Simmons College. (Harvard and Cornell each had two magazines to win awards.)

The editors of *Newsweek* also picked *VCU Magazine* and seven other university periodicals for exceptional achievement awards for their presentation of articles related to public issues. The other winners were Princeton, Yale, Cornell, Notre Dame, UCLA, George Washington University, and Old Dominion University.

This marks the second consecutive year that CASE has honored *VCU Magazine* as one of the top periodicals in its field. The magazine is published quarterly by the Alumni Activities Office for alumni of Virginia Commonwealth University and its parent institutions, the Medical College of Virginia and Richmond Professional Institute.

The cover on our summer issue—Britt Collins's illustration of the pull-tab top on the moon's surface—prompted a letter from George T. Conwell, personnel director of Reynolds Aluminum Can Division. Conwell, who received his M.S. degree in business from VCU in 1975, wrote to inform us that "thanks to the research of Richmond, Virginia, engineers, the disposable ring tab will soon be in antiquity." He tells us that Reynolds has spent two years developing an opening device called the "Stay-on Tab" and is spending more than $5 million to convert its machinery to produce the new opener.

"Some of the people who have been responsible for inventing the 'Stay-on Tab' have attended VCU, and I think the university can be proud of the contribution these people have made to eliminating litter and cleaning up our environment," writes Conwell. "Reynolds' commitment to a clean environment is evident, we think, in our efforts like the 'Stay-on Tab' and aluminum recycling. We want to eliminate unsightly litter here on earth, and if we have anything to do about it, pull tabs will never litter the moon." Thank you, Mr. Conwell, for that reassurance.

Turning to this issue, we are pleased to feature the views of political scientist Dennis Johnson on the limits to presidential power and Bill Griffin's article on VCU's freshman writing program, which he directs. Also in this issue we feature illustrations by two alumni—Phil Meggs and Bill Nelson—and two students—Margaret Buchanan and Dian Ameen—all products of VCU's CA department. Meggs, chairman of the department, graduated in 1964. Nelson, a 1970 alumnus and a Richmond free-lance artist, has succeeded in having his illustrations published in several national magazines recently. Just last June *TV Guide* ran his illustration of Louise Lasser as Mary Hartman on its cover. *Esquire*'s September "back-to-college" issue includes five of Bill's full-page caricatures of campus stereotypes: the old scholar, the young turk professor, the university chaplain, the departmental secretary, and the faculty wife. We can't help wondering how many of these characters we'll "recognize" on VCU's campus this fall.

G.B.R.

Cross your fingers, vote and hope

By Dennis W. Johnson

Every fourth year, two of the world's greatest sporting contests occur. One was held in Montreal this year, where thousands of athletes competed in their Olympic specialties during those intensive weeks of midsummer. The other contest takes place throughout America, with special focus on New Hampshire, New York City, Kansas City, and Washington, D.C. At first there are dozens of hopefuls and probables, and then finally two: a Republican and a Democrat, each followed by a large and gaudy retinue of aides, well-wishers, and hangers-on. Meanwhile, we sit back, watch, and absorb it all. For sheer drama, competitiveness, and good fun, nothing can beat the Olympics; but my concern, as a political scientist, focuses on that other spirited contest, the race for the White House, and more importantly, what the president will do after being elected.

For over a year now we have been saturated with speeches, interviews, and press releases from candidate after candidate, each claiming that he can do a better job than the man now occupying the White House. With variations to fit their own style and audience, the most right wing Republican, the most left wing Democrat, and the most independent Independent all hover around the same themes. We hear that the present government is unresponsive to the needs and wishes of the people; that it is bloated, wasteful, and inefficient; that present domestic programs do not work; that fresh ideas and fresh talent are sorely needed. All of this may be true, but two essential points are almost always missed by the candidates: first, a realistic explanation of how the candidate expects to change all of these shortcomings of our government; and more importantly, an honest confession that no matter who gets elected —no matter how bright, imaginative, and hardworking he is—he will face many competing institutional and political forces that will greatly limit what he will be able to do.

We have often heard that the president is the most powerful person in the world or that we are living in the age of the "imperial presidency." Indeed, the president does have an enormous range of powers —as commander-in-chief, the nation's chief diplomat, the head of the bureaucracy, party leader, and so forth. He is our most visible and authoritative voice in national and international affairs. Through his powers of persuasion and with political acumen, the president indeed can do impressive things. But we also must realize that there are many times when the president's efforts will be frustrated. Too often what we expect and demand of our presidents cannot be matched by the actual powers they have.

My point here is that voting for a presidential candidate is in effect an article of faith—to various degrees all of us have limited knowledge about what government can and should do and about the abilities of our candidates to govern. All we can do is cross our fingers, vote, and hope that our candidate will be able to fulfill the demands of this most demanding office. Chances are that he will be partially successful; but most certainly, he will fall short in a number of areas.

All presidents are faced with a number of competing centers of political power and a multitude of problems which seemingly defy solution. A quick rundown of some of these institutional and political hurdles will help to illustrate some of the difficulties facing our chief executive.

Booby traps and fiefdoms on Capitol Hill

For several decades now, the presidency has been portrayed as a dynamic, progressive body. A strong president was considered a good president. At the same time, Congress has been pictured in some pretty unflattering ways: a perennial target for reform, an unmanageable, backward-thinking forum, an undemocratic democratic institution, a "sapless branch" as one former Senator called it. To a considerable degree, Congress has played second fiddle to the president and has rightly deserved much of the criticism hurled its way. Yet especially since Vietnam and Watergate, we have seen considerable reflection on the proper roles of the executive and legislative bodies.

Congress does wield substantial power. In the White House, power and decision making are centered, at least theoretically, in the president himself. In Congress, the power is diffuse and spread among many individuals and offices. Weak leadership, the lack of party discipline, and a formidable set of procedural devices have all worked to the advantage of this dispersion of power. When facing Congress, a president does not face one problem, but a multitude: two very different bodies, the House and the Senate, each with its own fiefdoms (the committees and subcommittees), its own set of written and unwritten rules of procedure and participation, its own personalities, and its own collegial forum.

An important administration bill may find a friendly reception in the House Banking and Currency Committee, but may never see the light of day once it reaches the Rules Committee. A committee or subcommittee chairman can have almost life and death powers over matters within his jurisdiction. Consequently, presidents have had to pay much deference to the powerful and the mighty on the Hill: people like Wilbur Mills (before Fanny Foxe), Mendel Rivers, Richard Russell, William Colmer, Wayne Hays (before Elizabeth Ray), James Eastland, and others.

Capitol Hill used to be dominated by an immensely powerful gerontocracy.

Dennis W. Johnson (B.A., Carleton College; M.A., Ph.D., Duke University) is assistant professor of political science. He teaches a course on the presidency, as well as courses in constitutional law, judicial policymaking, national policy process, and American national government. Before joining the faculty in 1973, he was on the research staff of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C.

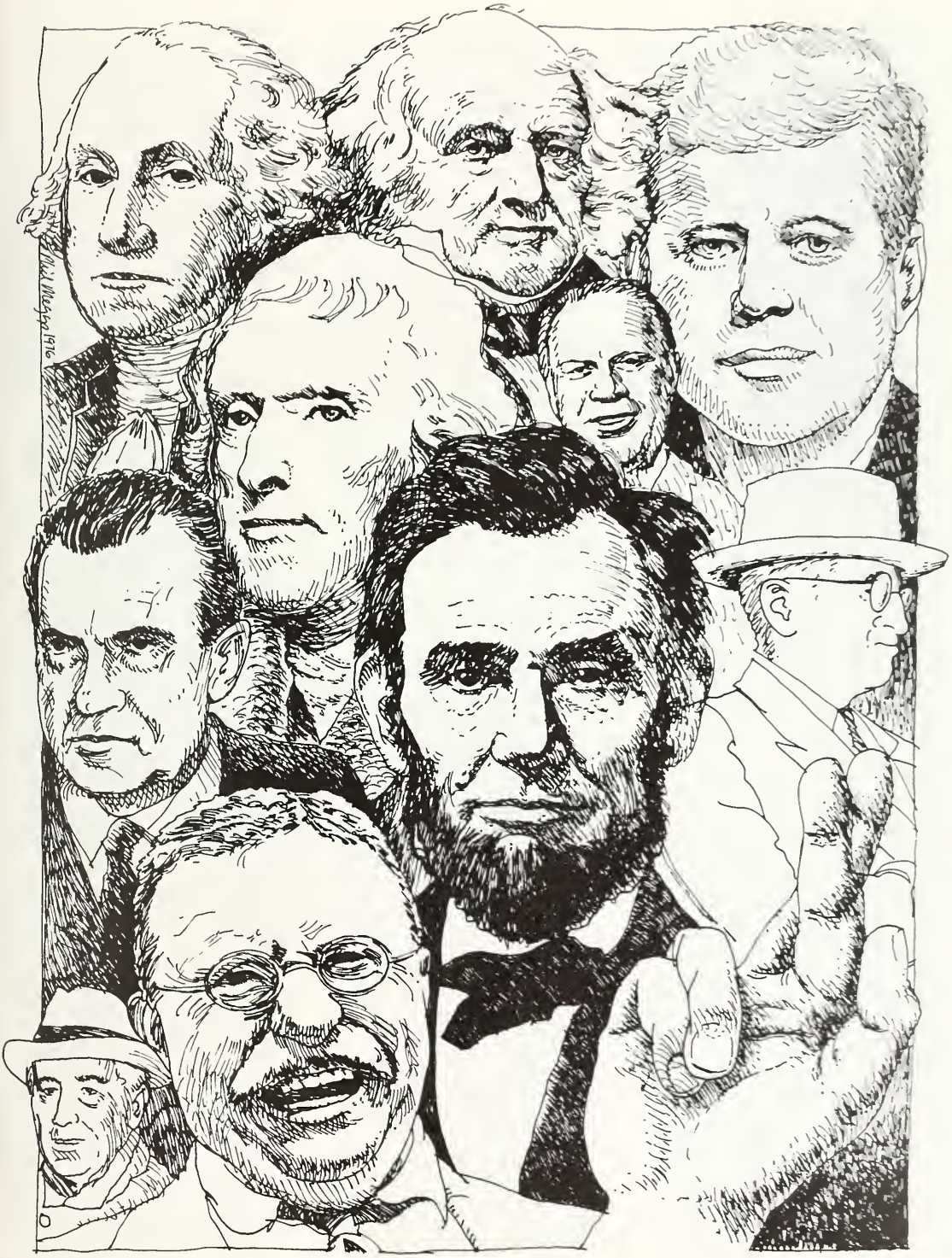


Illustration by Phil Meggs

Dr. Johnson: *"No matter who gets elected, the president will face many competing institutional and political forces that will greatly limit what he will be able to do."*

Congressman Emmanuel Celler of New York, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, served in Congress for fifty years before being defeated in the 1972 primary; Congressman Wright Patman, chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee, first came to Congress when Hoover was president and served until his death this year. Arizona became a state in 1912. That is when Carl Hayden was elected to Congress; he retired from the Senate in 1969. Congressman Ray Madden knew that one day, if he kept getting reelected, he too could become a committee chairman. He waited thirty years, and finally at the age of eighty, he became chairman of the Rules Committee. Presidents come and go; these and other Congressional giants had seen administration after administration. They were secure in their own power bases and they, not the president, would make those critical legislative decisions.

Much of this is changing now. About half of the present members of Congress have been elected since 1970. Many of the old guard have either retired, died, been defeated, or been removed from chairmanships. The short-lived spark of reform coming from the 1974 freshman class in Congress had much to do with some of these changes. Yet, they have been mostly changes in personnel, not changes in procedure or institutions. The inner structure of Congress has remained intact, and by its very nature, will lead to delay, the spreading out of power, and the creating of obstacle after obstacle for the president, no matter who holds key positions in Congress.

Beyond these powers of delay and obstruction, Congress has shown signs of flexing its muscles in recent years. After decades of almost complete abdication of foreign affairs policy to the president, Congress enacted the War Powers Act of 1973. It came late in the game, and was filled with many loopholes and exceptions but at least it was a positive step toward Congressional reassertion in foreign affairs. The recent budget and impoundment act has shown another Congressional reassertion in the area of budgeting and financing. And, of course, Congress's finest hour came during the Watergate years.

Even when Congress and the president can cooperate, the tasks they face are, at times, extraordinary. Some of the biggest issues of our day have been with us for decades—poverty, illiteracy, social inequality, pollution, energy problems, health care, the needs of the aged. What Congress and the president have been able to do is merely to chip away at these problems. President Truman proposed a comprehensive health care package during his administration; twenty years later Medicare and Medicaid were enacted. And now, ten years later, we still see considerable shortcomings in our health care programs. The same can be said for civil rights. It had a similar twenty-year gestation period, a flurry of enactments in the 1960s, and still we have fallen far short of the goals of equality for minorities and women in all aspects of life. Recent pension reform legislation has been the product of long legislative-presidential battles over several decades and several administrations. There are, in short, many domestic problems that cannot be resolved by any one president or in any one session of Congress. Indeed, some problems seem to be almost beyond solution altogether.

The style and temperament of a president can have a great impact on his relationship with Congress. John Kennedy and Harry Truman loved doing battle with Congress, but neither was particularly successful. Dwight Eisenhower believed in a literal separation of powers, that Congress had its own tasks to perform and the president his. We have ample evidence of Nixon's difficulties with Congress, coming partly because of his own mistrust, his moat-building tendencies, and the frequent and unfortunate habit of seeing things in an us-versus-them context.

It takes either unusual times or an unusual mixture of Congressional alignments for a president to promote his domestic program in Congress successfully. In this century, we have witnessed only two such periods—the first year of the New Deal and the first two years of the Great Society (Democratic presidents have this fondness for labels). But 1933 and 1964-65 were unusual times and circumstances. There is nothing to suggest that we will be going through another such phase of presidential assertiveness in the next few years. Now we are almost in a period of stalemate—a president, chosen under unprecedented circumstances, from a minority party facing a numerically superior, but essentially enfeebled Democratic majority. Our present Congressional term will hardly go down in history as an important, vital, and productive one. (Try to think of anything that Congress has done this year, with or without the prodding of the president.) Under such circumstances, the president's best weapon has been his negative one—the power to veto. President Ford's record amply demonstrates his relative success in using this weapon and his relative failure in having

 Photograph by David R. White

his own legislative program enacted.

The president and the court

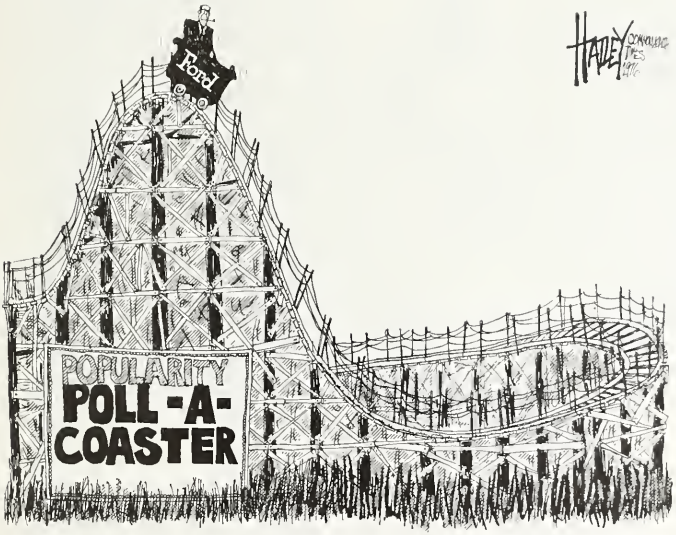
The administration is always one of the Supreme Court's best customers. More cases involve the federal government than any other party. Normally, the relations between the court and the administration are cooperative and complementary. The solicitor general, the government's chief lawyer, will often screen government cases before asking the court for review. This helps keep the court from being too clogged with government-sponsored litigation. While the court has the final verdict, the solicitor general and his staff in the Justice Department provide a very valuable and continued resource and body of expertise for the justices.

he had no authority under the Constitution or the laws to seize the nation's steel mills. More recently, the court refused to accept the Nixon administration's claim that publication of the Pentagon Papers would threaten national security. And in that most historic clash of all, the court unanimously rejected President Nixon's claim of executive privilege and ordered him to turn over those damaging tapes to the special prosecutor.

Even in less dramatic moments, the president's authority and ability to influence the court are often limited. When President Ford and Attorney General Levi suggest that they may enter a Supreme Court case to reconsider school busing, we should also be told: the government can only advise, the court

other Bill of Rights protections.

One of the president's most effective tools for influencing the court is his power of appointment. President Nixon probably succeeded in turning the court from a liberal one to a more moderate, even conservative, one under Chief Justice Burger. Even so, the president lost some important cases before the court, including his own case, *U.S. v. Nixon*. In that decision, all three participating Nixon appointees voted against him. Some presidents have been disappointed with their nominees to the court. Justice Byron White turned out to be more conservative than President Kennedy had hoped for, Roosevelt felt that same disappointment in Felix Frankfurter. Chief Justice Earl Warren turned out to be too liberal for his nominator, Dwight Eisenhower. ("Biggest damn-fool mistake I ever made," Eisenhower reportedly said years later.) Once sworn in, and once he has donned that dignified black robe, the presidential appointee becomes a lifetime member of the third branch of government, the Supreme Court. Sometimes presidents forget that.



Under both usual times and times of constitutional crisis, the Supreme Court is the final arbiter of the Constitution and the laws of the country. Every term, the government will win and lose a substantial number of cases, and sometimes the decisions will be of momentous importance for the presidency. One of the great confrontations in this century was between the court and the president during the early 1930s, with the "nine old men," as Roosevelt and other court critics called them, holding piece after piece of New Deal legislation unconstitutional. Roosevelt ultimately brought his frustrations to the people and to Congress in the form of his schemish, but unsuccessful, court-packing plan.

Harry Truman also felt the sting of the court in 1952 when he was told that

will make the final decision; whenever the decision is announced, it will probably be after one-and-one-half years of court proceedings; even when that decision is made, whether for busing, against it, or somewhere in between, it may take years to put the principle into effect, and decades before any impact is felt.

In many far-reaching decisions of the court, the administration has had no voice whatsoever. Private parties and state governments initiated suits leading to these key decisions: forbidding prayer and Bible readings in public schools; overruling certain criminal abortion statutes; creating the Miranda procedures for interrogating suspects; requiring the reapportionment of state and local government districts; and many others dealing with criminal rights and procedures and

Departments and the White House staff

When Dwight Eisenhower was about to take office, President Truman remarked: "He'll sit here, and he'll say, 'Do this! Do that!' And nothing will happen. Poor Ike—it won't be a bit like the Army. He'll find it very frustrating."

All presidents have felt the frustrations of leadership. Some of the biggest disappointments have come from the bureaucracy—that enormously complex and diverse body of departments, bureaus, and agencies which, at least on paper, works for the president. Just like Congress, the various components of bureaucracy move by their own forces and are guided by their own interests and powers. Its great diversity and sheer size often means that a president or his aides, in fact, do not know how policy is being created, thwarted, or improvised. Here, ignorance means power. The White House simply cannot keep abreast of all major policy decisions as they are made or implemented throughout the bureaucracy.

Bureaucratic politics essentially involves a series of triangular relationships. Agency A monitors and regulates the affairs of Industry B; Committee C in Congress likewise regulates Industry B by making laws; and lobbying groups from Industry B are in Washington to present their case to the committee and the agency. The relationship may not always be cozy and mutually advantageous, but at least Agency A, Industry spokesmen B, and

Cartoons by Hatley, from Commonwealth Times

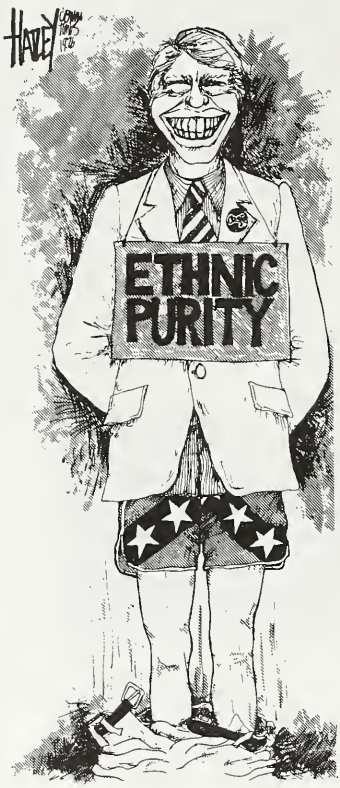
Committee C have a developed and ordered relationship. Any intervention from the White House could be viewed as an intrusion by all sides. When the president demands a new regulatory policy for Agency A, Committee C may strongly advise the president that it disapproves this new approach. The president on the campaign trail may attack the practices of Industry B, but back in Washington he finds less than enthusiastic support for his speech from Agency A.

Presidents might have short-term success in getting their way—firing a cabinet secretary, threatening the bureau chiefs, cutting back pet projects; but in the long run, the bureaucracy will prevail. These triangular relationships, hundreds of them, over the long haul will win out.

One wide scale White House intrusion met with great resistance. President Nixon attempted a fundamental reordering of the bureaucracy in 1971 when he proposed to reorganize a great majority of the old line agencies into four superagencies. His arguments were based on efficiency, economy, and better administration. However laudable were his reasons, his program was met with great suspicion—from the bureaucrats, the lobbyists, and the Congress. The principal fear was the great unknown: what might happen to those hundreds of triangular relationships? who would lose power? whose jobs would be forfeited for the sake of cost cutting and efficiency? how much power would the president seize? where could the lobbyists and Congress turn? This plan never got off the ground; as one author put it, this was the "Plot that Failed."

Under usual circumstances, the White House staff assists the president—it carries out his orders, advises him, and becomes in effect a vital extension of the chief executive. But as we have seen in Watergate, when key aides step out of line (and beyond the law), the impact on the president can be devastating. Presidents other than Nixon have suffered from selecting key aides of dubious quality. Nixon's closest competition in this respect was Warren Harding. In the midst of the Teapot Dome scandal, when his old cronies and close advisors were running into serious trouble, Harding mournfully confessed: "I have no trouble with my enemies. I can take care of my enemies all right. But my damn friends, they're the ones that keep me walking the floor at nights."

Once laws are enacted in Congress or policies formulated in the White House, there is never any guarantee that they will be fully implemented. Delays of all sorts, intended and unintended, can occur; circumstances can change; political forces can realign. For some of our biggest domestic problems, deliberate delay or footdragging is not the real problem. Even in the best of political times, with full cooperation of the bureaucracy, with sufficient funding, with the assistance of Congress, and with sympathy and support from the public, it may take more years, more personnel, more resources and imagination, and more luck than we now possess to tackle and resolve some of our thorniest problems.



Other constraints—internal and external

Some of the most important, but at times least recognized, constraints are those that come from within the man himself. Not every president will have the raw physical energies of Lyndon Johnson to work at breakneck speed, outdistancing all of his younger aides. In fact, virtually all of our presidents have suffered from physical impairments, some quite serious and some with possible ramifications on their performances as chief executive. Wilson, for example, suffered from a debilitating stroke that left him almost totally incapable of governing during his last year in office. Some writers have speculated that Franklin Roosevelt's fatigue, hypertension, and high blood pressure impaired his judgment at the Yalta conference in 1945.

Recent studies on the psychological aspects of the presidency have demonstrated the immense emotional strains of the office. In *Presidential Personality*, James D. Barber has shown how a flawed personality may account for a president's inability to perform, his distorted perceptions of reality, and major errors in policy decisions. For example, Wilson's rigidity in the League of Nations debate, Hoover's failure to meet the demands of the Great Depression, and Johnson's stubborn refusal to accept opposing viewpoints during the Vietnam war. Several authors have probed the negative aspects of Nixon's personality as well.

A president can be restrained by outside forces, too. His time is limited—to twenty-four hours in a day and to four years in a term, with the possibility for renewal. Both in the day-to-day political decisions and especially with an eye toward reelection, the president must be aware of one of the most important constraints—public opinion. Public reaction can cripple support and, in the case of Lyndon Johnson, can force a president to decide against running for office again.

Whoever is elected president this fall will face an enormously difficult task. He will have at his command great powers, considerable prestige, and many who will assist him. He will also face many political and institutional forces that have their own sources of influence and power. Such is the strength of our American system of government.

Suggested Readings*

Asher, Herbert. *Presidential Elections and American Politics: Voters, Candidates, and Campaigns Since 1952.* Dorsey Press, 1976.

Barber, James D. *The Presidential Character: Predicting Performance in the White House.* Prentice-Hall, 1972.

Cronin, Thomas E. *The State of the Presidency.* Little, Brown, 1975.

Hargrove, Erwin C. *The Power of the Modern Presidency.* A.A. Knopf, 1974.

Hughes, Emmet J. *The Living Presidency.* Penguin, 1973.

*All books in paperback

Sanger Hall's *completion in 1974 provided new classrooms and laboratories and permitted enrollment increases at MCV.*

Clearing the air on MCV admissions

So, you would like for your son or daughter to attend the Medical College of Virginia? Even if you can afford the rising cost of an education in the health sciences (which this year totals $3,800 for first-year dental students from Virginia and more than $5,000 for those from out of state), your son or daughter will face stiff competition from the thousands of applicants also seeking a place in MCV's 2,500-member student body.

According to admissions director William A. Robertson, Jr., MCV's admissions problem is one of "numbers—in terms of the many wanting in and the few spaces available." For example, this year the School of Medicine had 2,892 applicants and space for only 168 new students; dentistry, 1,199 applicants and space for 110; nursing, 362 applicants and space for 110; and pharmacy, 317 applicants, space for 96.

For every student it accepted, the School of Medicine had to reject seventeen others. The School of Dentistry had to say no to ten applicants for every one it said yes to. And while the odds were considerably better, both the schools of nursing and pharmacy enrolled only one-third of those applying.

Not all of the applicants were Virginians. Last year 2,015 out-of-state students applied to MCV's School of Medicine: fifteen were accepted. This year the number of applications from nonresidents dropped to 2,109, apparently as a result of the overwhelming odds against their being admitted.

Since MCV is state-supported, Virginia residents naturally receive top priority in the admissions process. Although Virginians submitted only 29 percent of

Photographs by John Frischkorn

this year's applications to the dental school, they comprise 79 percent of the class entering this fall. MCV's other schools, likewise, give preference to state residents. Ninety-one percent of the medical students and 98 percent of the pharmacy students were from the Old Dominion last year.

Up against what may seem like almost impossible odds, applicants sometimes resort to questionable—if not unethical—tactics to gain admission to MCV. Some candidates barrage the admissions committees with dozens of letters of recommendation. Others try to put pressure on the admissions committees on behalf of their favorite applicants. At least one applicant tried to gain entry to the medical school by submitting a phony transcript overstating his grades, academic work, and test scores. He was caught, convicted of forgery, and placed on three years' probation.

Still others have sought legislation aimed at circumventing traditional medical school admissions practices. During the 1975 session of the Virginia General Assembly, a legislative committee debated a measure which would have allowed each state senator to appoint two applicants from his senatorial district to each of the state's medical schools. Although the proposal—known as the "West Point" admissions-to-medical-school bill—was defeated in committee, it is indicative of the statewide frustration over the large number of qualified applicants who are refused admittance by the state's medical schools.

As can be expected, hundreds of applicants are disappointed each year when the rejection letters are mailed out. Often applicants want to know why they were denied admission. Sometimes they appear on campus with their parents, and occasionally with their lawyers, demanding to know why they were turned down. The answers are not always easy, particularly if they perceive the increased presence of women and blacks in each class as denying space to otherwise qualified white male applicants.

In the past few years, MCV (and its schools of medicine and dentistry, in particular) has been under pressure to enroll more *qualified* minority students—not only blacks, but also women and rural applicants. Consequently, those Virginians who traditionally have been under represented in the health professions sometimes receive special consideration. For example, women and blacks often do not score as well as white males on the Dental Admissions Test, one of the criteria used at MCV in selecting dental students. In addition to testing quantitative and verbal reasoning, reading comprehension, and knowledge of biology and chemistry, the Dental Admissions Test measures perceptual motor abilities, which include spatial relations. It is on this latter test that women and blacks score lower than their white male counterparts.

According to the chairman of the dental school admissions committee, Kenneth C. Troutman, D.D.S., "it is an established fact that women do not perform as well [as men on tests that measure] spatial relations and manual dexterity, but that doesn't mean they don't have these skills and can't develop them." Such mechanical skills, explains Dr. Troutman, are often discouraged in girls, whereas boys are more often encouraged to develop these skills while growing up.

Dentistry, pharmacy, *and medicine reject hundreds of applicants each year for lack of space.*

Until a few years ago, there were very few women in dentistry, and although the number of women in dental schools is still far lower than the number of blacks, their rolls are beginning to increase. More and more qualified women are now applying to dental schools across the country. At MCV the number of women in dentistry has risen dramatically just within the past few years. Of the 124 dental school graduates this past May, only one was a woman; there are 22 among the 110 students entering the school this fall.

The School of Pharmacy has also experienced an "explosion" of female applicants. Today, almost half of its applicants are women. This fall the pharmacy school expects to enroll forty-eight women, exactly half of the entering class.

Although MCV attempts to recruit qualified blacks, the number of blacks filing applications and the number accepted still remain relatively small. Last year's class entering medical school contained ten blacks; pharmacy enrolled four; dentistry, two.

A third minority group—applicants from rural areas—also receives special consideration during admissions-committee deliberations. Since there are shortages of both physicians and dentists in rural Virginia, MCV makes a concerted effort to enroll qualified rural applicants in its schools of medicine and dentistry. The premise is that students from rural backgrounds are more likely to practice in rural settings than are their urban-oriented counterparts.

Another group of applicants—those with alumni ties—sometimes receives more than a cursory review during the admissions process. Committee members are inclined to look favorably on qualified applicants listing relatives who have graduated from the school to which they are applying. Of the 168 students entering the medical school last year, 38 listed alumni relatives. The dental school class of 110 included 25 students whose fathers, brothers, uncles, cousins, or husbands had attended the School of Dentistry at MCV.

One group of applicants which does not receive preferential treatment, however, is that enrolled in preprofessional programs on VCU's academic campus. Because the programs at MCV must serve all of the people of the commonwealth, academic campus students must compete for space along with students from other colleges and universities in the state.

Each MCV school has its own admissions committee and establishes its own criteria for admission. Sometimes there are two sets of requirements—those that apply to in-state students and those still higher standards that apply to those from out of state. These criteria, however, are applied discriminately. Each applicant is reviewed in light of his or her background and potential for success.

Weighing these subjective decisions are members of the admissions committees, established to select the best students from the hundreds—or thousands—of applicants. The committees, appointed by the deans of their respective schools, vary in size from three to fifteen members. The task before them is not an easy one: their faculties demand academically superior students; state legislators press

for space for more and more Virginians; alumni request that their sons and daughters receive preferential treatment; parents seek a spot for their child, regardless; and conscience dictates the enrollment of more minority students.

To clear the sometimes cloudy picture of MCV's admissions policies, the *VCU Magazine* recently interviewed spokespersons for the admissions committees of the schools of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, and allied health professions. Some of the major requirements for admission to these schools are indicated in the paragraphs that follow.

School of Medicine

Obviously, the medical school faces a monumental task when it comes to selecting 168 students from files of almost 3,000 applicants. To limit the number of applications, the MCV catalog clearly discourages out-of-state students who have less than a *B* average and score lower than 500 on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). In their performance as undergraduates, last year's entering class averaged 3.43 on a 4.00 scale and scored between 550 and 600 on the MCAT.

Most students entering the medical school have baccalaurate degrees (88 percent in 1975), but exceptional students are admitted without degrees. Last year four students were admitted before receiving their bachelor's, while fifteen had earned master's degrees, and one had a Ph.D.

The fifteen-member medical school admissions committee is headed by Miles E. Hench, associate dean for admissions. Each application is first reviewed by two members of the committee. If they react favorably, the applicant is invited to the campus for an interview with two other committee members. If his candidacy again gets a nod, his file is then reviewed by the entire admissions committee. Letters of recommendation from three references are also considered helpful as the committee evaluates and rates each applicant.

The committee—composed of men and women, faculty and administrators, clinicians and basic scientists, and medical students—seeks a variety of students for each class. "Virginia needs a variety of kinds of physicians," says Hench, explaining his committee's perennial search for students from a variety of backgrounds. It is this variety that is seen as producing the different kinds of physicians needed in the commonwealth—pediatricians, internists, and family practitioners, as well as surgeons.

One indication of the variety sought is in the number of women—thirty-seven—who enrolled last year. Students also come from every corner of the commonwealth. Thirty-three cities and twenty-eight counties in Virginia were represented in the class entering last August.

Hench explains that his committee looks at more than the applicants' academic records and test scores. They also consider their extracurricular activities, interests, etc.

"This is not strictly an academic selection," explains the soft-spoken educator who shares the responsibility for selecting the men and women who will be tomorrow's physicians. "We're not simply selecting people who are students. All of the people we select must be capable and must have abilities as students, but that isn't the end-all and be-all of it. They must be potentially *physicians*."

Women, minorities, *and rural students comprise a growing percentage of MCV's enrollment.*

School of Dentistry

Of the 1,200 applications received this year by the dental school admissions committee, over 900 were from out-of-state students. To select the seventeen-or-so nonresidents admitted to the 110-member class annually, an admissions subcommittee automatically eliminates from consideration any out-of-state applicant whose academic average and test scores are below the average for the class which enrolled the previous year.

In other words, this year the committee reviewed only those nonresidents who had at least a 3.2 average (the previous year's class average was 3.17) and a minimum Dental Admission Test score of +5. (The test is scored on a scale of [illegible] to +9, last year's average was +[illegible].)

As the state's only school of dentistry, Virginia residents, however, are not subjected to such stringent admission requirements. Committee members evaluate each applicant individually, weighing grades, particularly those earned in the sciences, and test scores, taking into account the sex- and racial-bias inherent in the Dental Admissions Test. The college at which an applicant did his undergraduate work also may influence the committee's decision.

Personal interviews are not a significant factor in the admissions process. Admissions committee chairman, Kenneth C. Troutman, discounts the value of the interview, saying, "I don't believe that we have the kind of professional training to really obtain from an interview what we feel is important. What [the interview] boils down to, in my opinion, is a compatibility contest between interviewer and interviewee." He believes that successful performance in an interview "has very little to do with one's actual abilities or capabilities of achieving in dental school."

As with medicine, a baccalaurate degree is not a requirement for admission to the MCV School of Dentistry. Although about 85 percent of those in any given class usually have at least a bachelor's degree, the other 15 percent may have had only three years of college. At present in all of the School of Dentistry, only one student—a woman—had only two years of college before being admitted.

The charge from the dental school faculty to its twelve-member admissions committee is to recruit and admit more qualified minority students. That they have done. But before it will consider any candidate, explains Dr. Troutman, "He has to be qualified...We do not bend our criteria to admit unqualified women, unqualified blacks, or unqualified rural applicants."

School of Pharmacy

As the only pharmacy school in the commonwealth, the School of Pharmacy at MCV admits very few out-of-state students. Last year only two non-Virginians were enrolled in the first-year class of ninety-four students. This fall the school expects its entire class of ninety-six students to be from the Old Dominion.

According to admissions committee chairman C. Eugene White, the school accepts few nonresidents because it is state-supported and because it feels an obligation to the citizens of Virginia.

In addition to the students already accepted for the fall term, White and his two-member committee have identified another sixteen-to-twenty Virginians who qualify for admission, but for whom there is just not room. "We would have a hard time justifying not accepting those students and accepting out-of-state students," claims White.

This year the pharmacy admissions committee reviewed 317 applications, each on its individual merit. There are, however, few rigid guidelines governing the committee's decisions. Applicants must have completed at least two years of college, earned a C average or better, and be of good moral character. They are also advised to take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test.

While the committee emphasizes that grades and test scores are only one factor used in evaluating candidates, the students it enrolls do present impressive credentials. Last year the mean grade point average (g.p.a.) for the first year class was 3.17. (Twenty-two students had g.p.a.'s of 3.50 or better; only two had lower than 2.50, and none were lower than 2.25.) The committee also considers an applicant's rank in his high school class and scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

The committee also tries to ascertain a student's motivation for seeking admittance. "In other words, has the applicant been exposed to pharmacy? Does he have some concept of what the practice of pharmacy is like? Now, if the applicant doesn't know a pharmacy from a billy goat, we've got a problem," states White.

School of Nursing

Unlike most schools at MCV, the School of Nursing must compete for students for its baccalaureate degree program. Earning a B.S. degree is only one of the routes to becoming a registered nurse (RN). Hospital diploma programs and associate degree programs, such as those in community colleges, all turn out graduates who can sit for the RN exam. There also are other four-year colleges in Virginia where one can earn a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Although there is plenty of competition for nursing students, MCV still manages to attract more than three times the number of applicants it can accept. The maximum number of students admitted to the junior class, the entry level for those with no nursing training, is 110. The school can also enroll as many as 25 RN's who decide to earn a B.S. degree.

The nine-member admissions committee automatically eliminates from consideration any candidates who have earned less than a 2.0 average in their first two years of college. (Out-of-state applicants, however, must have at least a 3.0 average before being considered, and no more than 20 percent of any class can be from out of state.) An applicant's high school record and SAT scores are also evaluated.

The admissions committee also places emphasis upon the applicant's own evaluation of himself or herself. Each applicant must return a self-evaluation form containing answers to four or five questions regarding such things as their strengths, weaknesses, limitations, and relationships with others. They also have to write a one-page essay on a moral issue facing society today.

"This gives us some idea of a person's ability to write a logical, well-developed, brief composition, which in this program is extremely important," explains Shirley T. Downs, a member of the nursing admissions committee. "If there is any one thing that defeats our students more readily than anything else, it is the lack of writing ability."

The committee also reviews each applicant's record of employment, activities, and volunteer service. Letters of recommendation from five references are also of help during the selection process.

Although the nursing school is eager to enroll males, it still has relatively few male applicants. Last year the school did enroll nine men, up considerably from the two or three usually found in each class heretofore.

The depressed job market for many college graduates has led increasing numbers of them to apply to the School of Nursing. "If anyone applied to this school ten years ago with a B.S. degree, it was unusual," says Ms. Downs. Now it is not unusual for the school to have as many as fifteen applicants with a B.S. degree. "We even have some with master's degrees, and this year we have one with a Ph.D.," says Ms. Downs.

School of Allied Health Professions

The School of Allied Health Professions, the newest school at MCV, offers educational programs in medical technology, radiation sciences, occupational therapy, patient counseling, physical therapy, hospital and health administration, and nurse anesthesia.

Of the seven departments, one awards an associate degree (radiation sciences) and two grant certificates (patient counseling and nurse anesthesia); the remainder offer academic study leading to both the bachelor's and master's degree. Each of the baccalaureate degree programs requires two years of undergraduate study as a requirement for admission to the two-year residency programs at MCV. Criteria for admission differ with each program, but all applicants are required to have at least a C average. Applications to each of the eleven different degree programs are reviewed by individual admissions committees.

The most competitive program in the school is that in physical therapy. Last year there were 346 applicants and space for only 36 students. In other words, only about one in ten applicants was allowed to enroll in the department, the only one of its kind in Virginia.

Another program unique in the state to MCV is occupational therapy. It can accept some twenty-five students a year, and normally receives more than four times as many applicants as there are spaces.

Since there are other institutions in the commonwealth offering such preparation, medical technology is less competitive than some of the other programs in the school. Still, there are about twice as many applications as there are spaces, numbering about thirty a year.

The bachelor's degree program in health care management, now in its second year, is a cooperative effort of the Department of Hospital and Health Administration and the School of Business. The program, which can accommodate about fifteen students a year, is expected to become more competitive as people become aware of its existence.

The admissions committees apply the various criteria with only one intent—that of selecting the men and women who can best meet the health care needs of Virginia's citizens. Although there will always be those who disagree with a committee's decision to reject a particular applicant, one can hardly criticize the committees' phenomenal achievement of selecting students who successfully complete their degree requirements. Almost without exception, those accepted to MCV survive the rigors of the educational process to become health care professionals. (The admissions process itself is so carefully selective that few failures occur in the classroom; for example, the attrition rate in the medical school is less than 3 percent.) That is as it should be. With the state bearing a large portion of the educational costs, Virginia can ill afford the wasted expense of MCV dropouts. Citizens of the commonwealth can rest assured that those admitted to MCV are competent to meet the educational and professional requirements to enter health care service.

A modern day Stone Age man

Errett Callahan strode over to a pile of rocks, picked out one about the size of his fist, settled back on his haunches, and began to tap it rhythmically with a chunk of elk horn.

Tap, tap, tap. The rock shattered along one edge. He fingered the jagged space and resumed tapping. Splinters flashed from the rock each time the elk horn struck with a crushing blow. After several strikes, the rock had been chiseled into something resembling a primitive hand ax. With precision, he kept striking the stone, turning it over and over in his palm as he thinned and shaped it eventually into a finely crafted arrowhead.

Callahan, who teaches experimental archaeology at VCU, is one of a handful of recognized experts in the field of lithic technology, the fashioning of stone tools using adapted methods from primitive cultures.

"My interest in American Indian technology, or primitive technology, goes back as far as I can remember," says the thirty-eight-year-old anthropologist from Lynchburg, Virginia. "Along about 1950, when I got out of high school, I started doing flint working, just on my own."

Errett Callahan, *an instructor in the sociology and anthropology department, makes replicas of primitive stone tools.*

Photographs by David R. White

Flaked stone implements: *At left is a plastic cast of a leaf-shaped projectile point of the Solutrean period, 20,000 years ago. Next to it are two replicas fashioned by Callahan. The other tools are representative of implements used thousands of years ago.*

That summer, while working at Yellowstone National Park, Callahan began making arrowheads out of broken glass and the volcanic obsidian he found near Old Faithful. Through trial and error he mastered the flint working skills of primitive man. "I've been doing flint working now for twenty years. Most of the principles which I didn't know even existed at the time I started, I had to sort of rediscover experimentally," says Callahan, adding that he didn't see "any literature on the subject for the first ten years."

Now, after two decades of self-instruction and "a hell of a lot of broken rocks," Callahan is teaching these skills to VCU students who learn in one semester what it took him ten years to learn on his own.

"So many students come into this [experimental archaeology class] thinking that it is going to be very simple," states Callahan, explaining that they often mistakenly assume that they can "just sit down and make an arrowhead." They figure that since "any savage did it, they certainly can do it." And even though Callahan makes it look easy, flint working is not as simple as it first appears.

"Stone, or flint, will fracture according to mechanical principles, which are pretty much nonvarying," explains Callahan, holding up a rock and marking off the flaking sequence with a piece of chalk. "In other words, when you hit flint it always is going to break in a certain way. And it takes a long time [for students] to realize that, no matter how many words I say, films I show, or demonstrations I give.

"It's a very difficult thing. It sounds very easy but...[students] find that just intellectually they are up against one of the biggest challenges they've had in their college career. Out of a class of fifteen or twenty, I rarely have more than one or two at the end of a semester who can really achieve some degree of competence in lithic reduction skills—taking a chunk of rock and reducing it down to a predetermined product, like an arrow point or a knife.

"Most of my students go away from the course, if not with some kind of beautiful products and things, with a hell of a lot of respect for the primitive—or so-called primitive—man."

It's this appreciation and understanding of primitive cultures that Callahan is after in his course in experimental archaeology—a field he helped to define when he began teaching flint working at VCU some five years ago.

At the time VCU began offering experimental archaeology, only one other university—Washington State—was teaching such a course. Today, estimates Callahan, as many as twenty universities offer courses in experimental archaeology.

Although he is interested in how stone tools were made, Callahan is also dedicated to finding out how they were used. He makes the stone tools as authentic as possible and then utilizes them under the same conditions as they were originally used—that is, in the wilderness. According to the instructor, it is possible to make inferences about the lives of primitive peoples just by analyzing the wear patterns on replicas of stone tools.

Callahan and Roberta Bennington, *a VCU student learning flint working.*

"There have been too many armchair archaeologists who have sat back and speculated about how life was in the past," claims Callahan. Speculation, however, is not good enough for him and his students. They go into the wild and actually conduct scientific experiments with tools identical to those used by primitive people in order to come up with some realistic notions as to how the people really lived.

"We want to gain an appreciation for the difficulties that were faced in the past and for the great ingenuity that had to be evident in order [for primitive cultures] to overcome the obstacles. Our courses have given us that appreciation, as well as a lot of factual and scientific knowledge," states Callahan. Such experiments, he believes, help to "complete the picture of mankind."

Although he teaches courses in archaeology, Errett classifies himself as an anthropologist; soon he will complete his doctorate in anthropology at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. ("I do not want to limit myself to just understanding the archaeological record; my interest lies in mankind as a whole.") He is also an artist; he earned a master's degree in painting and printmaking from VCU in 1973. His bachelor's degree is from Hampden-Sydney College, where he majored in French.

In addition to teaching flint working, Callahan also instructs students in his experimental archaeology classes in how to make authentic Indian pottery. Students dig the clay out of the ground, process it, and coil it into utilitarian pots. Then they fire the pottery just as the Indians did—outdoors in an open fire or in a fire pit.

"In all of our replications we stick very closely to the archaeological record. When we make ceramic pots, we're not free in the artsy-craftsy sense to make anything we want. The same with flint tools. We work from known models in order to come to some understanding as to why they were made the way they were," he says.

Through the years Callahan has assembled an impressive collection of aboriginal items—some by American Indians—and replicas. He has pieces of pottery 1,500 years old and some almost identical pieces made just last year. He also has stone tools and arrowheads—some ancient and others created recently. The collection, housed at VCU's experimental archaeology lab, also includes items such as baskets which were made using stone tools.

At the end of each semester, Callahan takes his students on a three-day field trip in which they apply what they have learned. They go into the wild, carrying with them only stone tools and clay pots. No metal tools or utensils are allowed. There, the students are expected to apply the newly learned "technology," just "to get a feel for it.

"We light all our own fires with friction; we never use matches. We don't use metal tools or plastic or any modern technology except in the form of documentary equipment like cameras, notebook paper, and measuring devices.

"We don't really need to. We find that these aboriginal substitutes are not only just enough to get by but are quite efficient, surprisingly. Most of us who have cooked in ceramic pots prefer to cook in them. I cook in ceramic pots lots of times on my stove at home. I use stone tools for all my kitchen use at home, simply because they work well, and in many cases, they are a lot sharper than modern tools," says Callahan.

While his course in experimental archaeology teaches how to make and use stone tools and clay pots, Callahan also expects his students to gain a greater appreciation for primitive people. "We're trying to get at the people who made these original things, not just at the products. So, this really is a course in anthropology, more than it is any kind of crafts course.

"I think that is one of the big distinctions that separate this kind of work from the 'old' archaeology. The new emphasis is on getting at the people who made the things...[But] it is not simply a matter of understanding people, for whatever that is worth, for the psychology or history of it. I think it goes beyond the history.

"I am very much concerned about where life is at and where life is going.... The more we understand about the past—about what made cultures change, what kept cultures constant, where cultures in the past went wrong—we can understand some of those things which are really screaming to us from history and prehistory, and maybe help us understand what our culture is doing, where it is going, where it shouldn't go, and so forth.

"Life really hasn't changed that much," says Callahan, picking up another rock and tapping it with a chunk of elk horn.

When will we teach Johnny to write?

By C.W. Griffin

For once, parents, educators, and administrators have agreed—"Johnny can't write," they cry. One college teacher, Professor A. Bartlett Giamatti, says that "today's college students—the former grammar and high school students of the late 1960s and early '70s—have lost touch with the language." In the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, two other college teachers despair of ever teaching their students to write. Even *Newsweek* magazine says that "willy-nilly, the U.S. educational system is spawning a generation of semiliterates."

When so many agree that we have a problem, we ought to examine it closely. But examining the problem means more, I think, than pointing an accusing finger or ripping off a few hasty generalizations.

First, how new is the problem? Is it, as many commentators imply, brand-new, spawned perhaps by TV and the permissiveness of the 1960s? Probably not. Educators and parents have complained about the inabilities of students to write for just about as long as there have been students. Professor Richard Lloyd-Jones, a well-known teacher of writing at the University of Iowa, notes that complaints about the writing skills of the young have been found even on clay tablets in ancient Sumer.

Even at Harvard University in the 1880s, professors complained that their students couldn't write. And some of the first grammar and punctuation handbooks were written in the 1930s, when parents, businessmen, and journalists clamored that young people could not write correctly.

C.W. Griffin, associate professor of English, is director of VCU's program in composition and rhetoric. Griffin, who earned his B.S. and M.A. degrees from the University of Richmond and his Ph.D. from Indiana University, teaches courses in remedial and freshman composition as well as graduate courses in English. He first taught at VCU from 1960 to 1962; he rejoined the faculty in 1969.

The problem, then, is hardly a new one. What is perhaps new is its severity and extensiveness; we probably have more students who write less well than ever before. But again, we need to proceed cautiously. *What* exactly is the problem? And *who* are the students who constitute the problem?

As Professor Lloyd-Jones implies, not everyone accusing Johnny of not being able to write is talking about the same Johnny. Some reports, such as those based on college board scores, refer to all applicants to college. Parents are talking about their children, no matter what their age or grade level. College professors, on the other hand, often complain about students in advanced or even graduate classes. And employers may be talking about junior vice-presidents who cannot write letters as eloquently as their elders, or about junior clerks who can hardly write a sentence.

We're also probably talking about radically different kinds of writing problems. Some critics are still upset by infelicities of style or by split infinitives. Others are upset about much more important matters, such as students' inability to analyze a problem and present solutions in a clear and organized manner. This split, by the way, between critics of taste and critics of thinking has existed since the time of Greece and Rome. Some have always felt that matters of style, such as word choice and proper usage, were the important ingredients in writing, while others have ignored roughness of style for soundness of subject matter.

But no matter how carefully we define it, we still must acknowledge that we do have a problem. At least some Johnnys don't write very well at all—some cannot make subjects and verbs agree or punctuate even the simplest sentence properly; others cannot construct a complex sentence or organize a paper. The most telling evidence of the problem is the decline in college board verbal test scores during the last twelve years. According to the *College Board News* of June, 1976, "verbal scores have declined 41 points from the testing year 1962-63 to the testing year 1974-75."

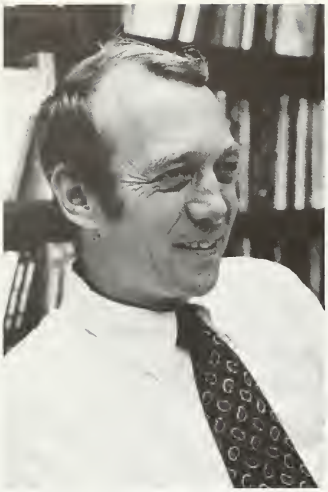
Why—that is the crucial question. Unfortunately, the causes are no more easy to locate than is the complex problem to define. There is a plethora of obvious explanations. Professor Giamatti feels, for example, that a love of sentimentality in language, a distrust of its rules and restrictions, and a desire to eliminate its complexities, all so rampant in the 1960s are "at the heart of why young people today can't write."

Newsweek quotes numerous experts who feel that causes of the writing decline range from increased TV watching, overcrowded classrooms, the new emphasis on "creativity" and minicourses to the permissive influences of certain linguists who believe that there are no real standards for any language and that any dialect of a given language is as good as another.

The *College Board News* notes that every day's mail brings a new reason for the decline. In addition to those mentioned by *Newsweek*, these range from dietary insufficiency caused by food additives and the increased use of drugs to a lack of respect for institutions and schools.

There are probably grounds for a number of these speculations, although surely diet and drugs could not be numbered among the chief culprits. But the explanations are too many and too imprecise. If we are to do anything effective about Johnny's inability to write, we must find a few precise explanations. And the College Entrance Examination Board, the agency which administers tests to all applicants to college, in cooperation with the Educational Testing Service, is attempting to do just that. In 1975 it appointed a panel of twenty-one experts in testing, sociology, and other fields, as well as practicing school administrators and classroom teachers, to assess explanations of declining verbal scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Its results, which will not be available until sometime in 1977, will

Illustration by Bill Nelson



Dr. Griffin: *"The question is not Why can't Johnny write? but When—when are we going to put money, time, and energy into teaching him how to write?"*

be our first reliable explanations of the problem.

But we at VCU have not been waiting while the problem is being analyzed. As a result of our own analysis over the past several years, we know what writing problems our students have, and we have taken steps to correct them.

At VCU we teach composition to three groups of students, and each group must be treated in a particular way. Approximately 5 percent of our freshmen are proficient writers when they enter the university. A few of these have completed the Advanced Placement Program in their high schools, a college level writing and literature course taken during their senior year. If their scores on a nationally administered test are high enough, they may be exempted from one or both semesters of our freshman composition course.

Most of this 5 percent is made up of students who take our own English Placement Test. (We exempt sixty to seventy students from the first semester of our composition course on the basis of this test.) Although they pass the test, these students may still need to learn how to analyze a paper assignment, perform necessary research, and organize a paper skillfully, but their vocabulary is extensive, they can already write well-structured sentences, and they follow most of the conventional rules of grammar and punctuation. They can learn the writing skills they need in one semester of freshman composition.

From 80 to 85 percent of our students fall into a large middle group. These are probably the students whom most of Johnny's critics are talking about. Usually they can write correct simple sentences, apply some elementary rules of punctuation, and write short paragraphs. But they need to learn to write more complex and effective sentences and punctuate them correctly, to develop paragraphs with facts and details, and to organize whole papers clearly.

At VCU they develop these skills in a two-semester composition course. During the first semester our students write, and write, and write. Some keep daily journals, recording impressions of their first few weeks in college—describing dorm rooms at midnight, last night's date in a sleazy bar, or their latest struggles with a painting or a concept in psychology. They write numerous papers—short ones and long ones—describing people, telling about hikes in the Appalachians, or analyzing the causes of an inner-city problem. But whatever subjects they write about, they are learning to order their ideas, develop them in well-focused paragraphs, and express them in clear, correct sentences.

During the second semester they develop abilities to think critically and use research materials effectively. At the heart of this semester's work are two full-length research papers, one about 800 words long and another about twice as long. Most students choose their own subjects: these include a study of some aspect of Gauguin's life, a paper on the causes of the mysterious occurrences in the Bermuda Triangle, or an old war-horse such as a paper about why we should not eliminate capital punishment. Working on these papers teaches our students to investigate a problem using research tools (both in and outside the library) and to organize and express their results in a clear and effective manner. We need no one to tell us to return to the "basics" at VCU; our present composition program is, if anything, more basic than it ever was before.

But despite its careful design, not all students succeed in this program. Some who have the ability and work hard become excellent writers. Many improve their writing skills a good deal. Some—be thankful not very many—work little and improve little. But just as it would be unjustified to praise VCU lavishly for the relatively few students who become excellent writers, so is it unfair to criticize the university because some others cannot write well at all.

VCU admits a third group of students, constituting about 10 percent of our entering freshmen, who are particularly weak in their writing skills. In her book *Beyond the Open Door*, K. Patricia Cross has called these the "New Students." They rank in the lowest third of high school graduates on traditional tests of academic achievement, have experienced difficulty and failure in their previous schooling, and are usually the first generation of their families to attend college.

These students have almost every imaginable writing problem. Some can't spell; some cannot write simple sentences; and some, probably because their dialect encourages this, do not put the *s* on a third person singular verb ("He throw the ball") or *ed*'s on past tenses ("Yesterday, John jump the fence"). Many do not know even simple rules of grammar and punctuation, and almost none can write a paragraph or a whole short paper.

These are the students who receive the most intensive writing training at VCU. Many take a special "bridge-the-gap" summer remedial program, funded by the federal government, which drills them intensively in standard English grammar and usage, in spelling, in writing clear

Freshman composition *courses, required of all VCU undergraduates, are more "basic" than ever before.*

sentences, and in developing short paragraphs. In the fall, these students are placed in one of two composition courses: if their writing skills are very weak, they enter English 100, a remedial course which prepares them for our regular freshman composition program. Others who are not quite so weak take special sections of our regular freshman composition, which are limited to fifteen students and meet four times a week, so that they may receive the extra help they need. While learning to write the longer papers which students in regular sections write, these students work hard on fundamentals of grammar, usage, and punctuation. If they complete this program successfully (and many do), they receive credit for fulfilling their college composition requirement. This fall, by the way, we shall have a writing skills laboratory which will give these students additional help.

What should be obvious by now is that our freshmen do not fall into any neat, single category. There is no one kind of Johnny at VCU. Rather, we have many different students with a variety of backgrounds, interests, and levels of ability. And as I have indicated, to meet this challenge we have a variety of courses and approaches to teaching composition.

But if I were asked what the real strength of VCU's composition program is, I would answer that it lies in the quality of the faculty who teach the courses. At most universities the size of VCU, freshmen are taught writing by graduate students. But at VCU, all of our freshman writing classes are taught by experienced faculty. Some of our writing instructors have M.A. degrees; they will teach from two to four years with us and then return to graduate school to pursue their doctorates. Most of our faculty have the Ph.D.; and even though their fields of specialization are American literature, eighteen-century English literature, African literature, creative writing, and linguistics, they teach one or two sections of freshman composition.

Thus, when he is eighteen years old and and in his first year of college, a freshman can sit in a relatively small class with an experienced teacher and frequently an acknowledged specialist in a field. Imagine the kind of energy and expertise which such a faculty member brings to his freshman courses. At least six of our faculty are creative writers and have published poems, short stories, plays, and novels. Others are continually publishing articles about their research, in newspapers, popular magazines, scholarly journals, and books.

In short, VCU students have the opportunity to become good writers. But as I indicated at the beginning of this article no matter how good our program may be and no matter how talented our faculty may be, we shall always have difficulty teaching all students to write well. There will always be people who simply don't care to learn to write; and there will always be those who try hard and still won't become superior writers. In fact, when John Adams told Thomas Jefferson why Jefferson was better suited to draft the Declaration of Independence than he, he said: "Reason third—you can write ten times better than I can."

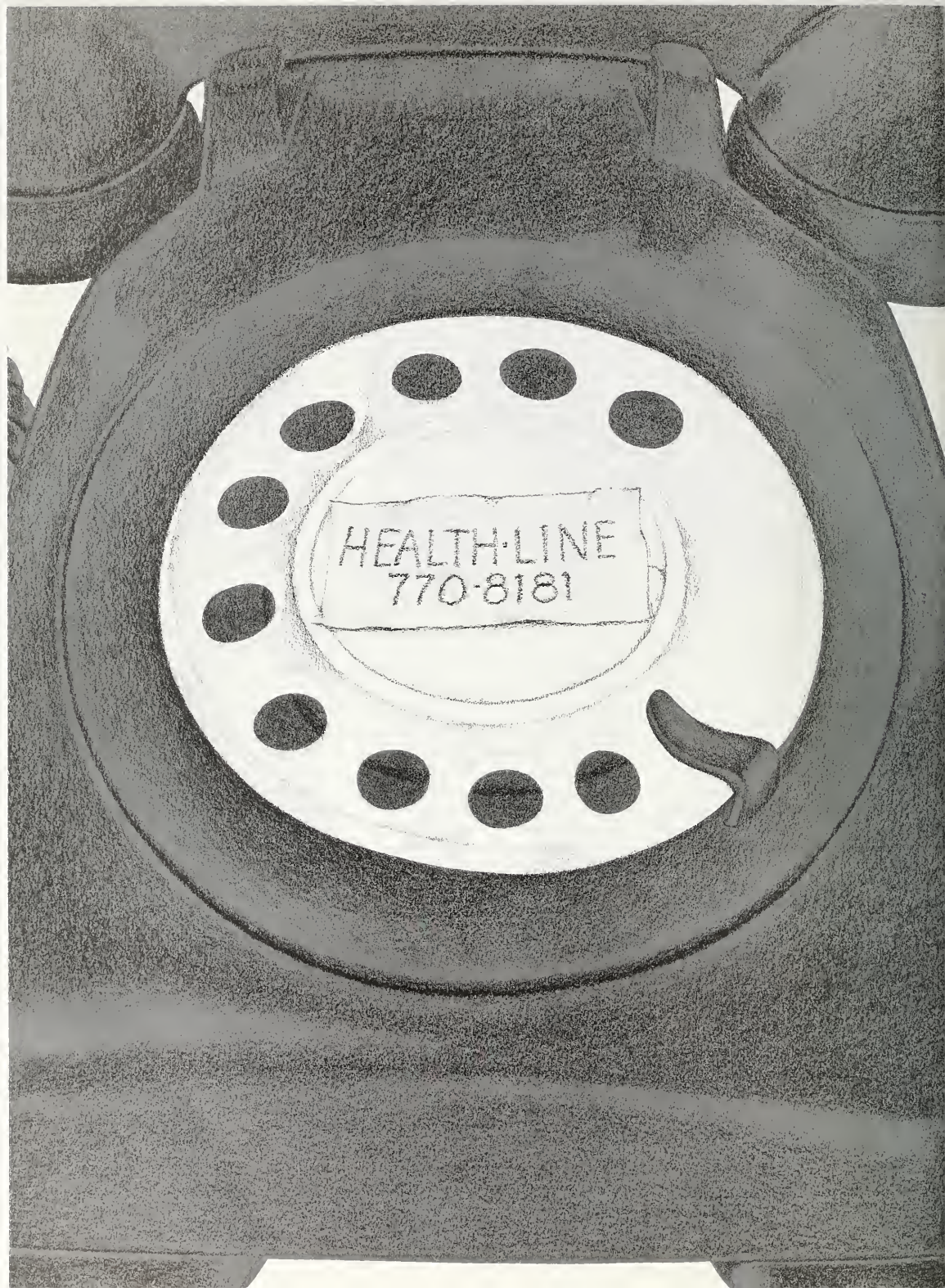
My intent in this article has not been to minimize the problem of our students' failure to write very well. Many who enter VCU cannot write well; some who leave the university still cannot write well. But we must stop wasting time accusing and start acting. We can improve our students' ability to write. But first, college administrators must assign enough instructors to allow us small enough classes to give real training. And we educators need to find new ways to diagnose our students' writing problems and new ways to help overcome them.

But perhaps we parents have the toughest job of all. Certainly, we cannot accuse our children and others for failing to do what we don't do. If we write sloppy business memos and letters, if we continue to delegate to secretaries the task of "dressing up" and correcting our reports, if we never write a letter to a friend or relative, and if we hardly ever read a book at home, then we cannot very well criticize our children.

Most of our children know what we think is important and they act accordingly. When we are willing to spend the money to hire enough teachers to teach writing—even if this means a tax increase—when we become interested in the kinds of reading and writing our children are required to do in school and are willing to speak up when it is not enough and most of all, when we ourselves once again begin to read and write, Johnny will write, too.

Many of our young people don't write very well; and it is surprising, no one knows this better than they. Too many students have told me what lousy writers they are. But while most will never be professional writers, they can become proficient writers; that is, if we are willing to pay the cost. The question then is not Why can't Johnny write? but When—when are we going to put money, time, and energy into teaching him how to write? If we were to stop blaming our children so vociferously, we might just hear them asking us a question: When will you teach us to write?

Photographs by Medford Taylor


HEALTH·LINE
770-8181

Dial the Health-Line for cancer answers

"Hello. We're glad you called the Medical College of Virginia Health-Line," intones a pleasant, male voice over the telephone receiver. "We hope the information in this tape about cancer and its warning signals will help you to recognize and understand the disease a bit better."

For the next two and half minutes, the well-modulated voice tells the caller how to discover cancer early. The taped message states that one of the best ways to detect cancer is to learn its warning signals. The voice then lists seven different things to lookout for:

1. Any change in bowel or bladder habits.
2. A sore that does not heal.
3. Unusual bleeding or discharge.
4. A thickening or lump in the breast.
5. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing.
6. Any change in a wart or mole.
7. A nagging cough or hoarseness.

These symptoms and some reassuring advice (e.g., "You'll have to use some common sense in deciding whether or not these warning signals mean anything" and "Most changes in your body don't have anything at all to do with cancer, but the only way you can be sure is to see a doctor and have a thorough checkup") are part of the message contained on one of the tape recordings now available to callers of the Health-Line, a new informational telephone service sponsored by the MCV Cancer Center and the Virginia division of the American Cancer Society.

Since the service began in July, callers have been able to request more than fifty different taped messages about cancer. In addition to the selection about cancer's warning signals, callers can ask for information about the causes of cancer, its detection, and its treatment. They also can hear talks on the different sites where cancer commonly occurs and on preventive measures, such as how to examine one's own breast.

According to Robert W. Jessee, M.D., professor of preventive medicine, cancer —the nation's number two health problem (heart disease is first)—will strike one-fourth of all Americans during their lifetime.

While researchers at the MCV Cancer Center and elsewhere continue to probe the causes of cancer and search for its cure, progress is already evident in the attack on this dread disease. Today, approximately one-third of all cancers caught in their early stages are *curable*. The critical factor is *early* detection. Unfortunately, too few cancer victims get treatment as early as they could; therefore, the death rate from cancer is higher than it need be. One obvious solution to the lack of knowledge is education. And that is just what Health-Line is designed to provide.

Here is how the service works. Anyone in the Richmond area can telephone the Health-Line number, 770-8181. Those living outside of Richmond, must simply dial a long distance call. When the Health-Line operator answers, the caller describes the cancer-related topic he or she would like explained. The operator then plays a prerecorded message about three minutes long.

If the demand for this cancer information service warrants, and if necessary funds can be obtained, Dr. Jessee hopes that a statewide, toll-free Health-Line number can be installed. At present, the Health-Line operating from the media center in Sanger Hall on the MCV campus is open for calls from 8:00 A.M. to 4:45 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. On Saturday the lines are staffed from 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. and on Sunday, from 2:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M.

Funded by an $80,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute, Health-Line is the only service of its kind in Virginia. Eventually, the tape bank will consist of more than a hundred messages. Not all of these, however, will be for the general public. There is one group of tapes which only a physician can prescribe for a patient. These recordings will supplement what the doctor tells a patient about an upcoming diagnostic or treatment procedure.

"These tapes are not intended to supplant what the doctor tells the patient," explains Dr. Jessee, principal investigator of the federally funded service. "They are simply to assist the physician in informing his patient about the procedures about to take place, so that the patient can exercise 'informed consent' —that is, understand the risks involved in whatever surgical, radiological, or other treatment procedure is proposed." While there are other similar cancer and health information services operating elsewhere in the country, Dr. Jessee says that the by-prescription-only tapes are unique to MCV's Health-Line.

A third group of tapes is available only to patients at MCV Hospitals. These tapes are to inform hospital patients of their rights, privileges, and obligations. They cover such things as the patient bill of rights, visitor policies, admission and discharge procedures, and hospital personnel.

The taped messages, several of which are printed in abridged form on the following pages, were written by MCV faculty and administrators, or other cancer experts in the community. MCV's visual education department provided technical assistance to produce the actual recordings.

If you find a lump in your breast

Suppose, one day, you discover a strange feeling in your breast. Maybe it's an actual lump, or maybe it's just a general thickening of the area, but since you probably haven't felt anything like this before, you may be a bit nervous and scared. You may wonder how long the lump's been there and what it means. Many women automatically jump to the mistaken conclusion that they've got breast cancer! Anyway, this talk should help

Illustration by Margaret Buchanan

you to understand more about lumps in the breast and what you can do if you discover one yourself.

The first thing you should know is that the odds are in your favor. Most women have changes in their breasts at one time or another and find they're of no medical significance whatsoever. This new lump or thickening you've found is probably not cancer at all; however, early breast cancer often starts just like these unimportant changes, and it's vital that you seek medical attention just to make absolutely sure what you have is *not* breast cancer.

The female breast is basically a gland with a particular function—to supply milk for babies. Your breasts are responsive to certain body chemicals, or hormones, that normally change with your cycle as long as you continue to menstruate. In some women these chemical changes produce tenderness or fullness of the breasts that is most obvious just before a period. From time to time, tender or thickened areas develop in parts of the breast. Some of these thickened areas collect fluid and are then referred to as cysts. At other times, small lumps may form. These are completely unrelated to breast cancer and are no more serious than a normal mole in your skin.

So chances are that what you discover in your own breast examination is of no medical significance, but you have to remember that only a trained physician can *really* determine whether breast changes are likely to be cancerous or not.

After the menopause, or "change of life," there is more chance of a breast lump being cancerous; but even if you're in this age group, it's still more than likely that the change you have discovered is something relatively minor. The main thing to remember is: don't panic! Instead, make an appointment to see your doctor right away.

He'll probably tell you there is nothing wrong with your breast. However, if the findings in your breast examination are of even the slightest concern to your doctor, he, or a surgeon recommended by him, must do everything possible to determine the cause of your problem.

To do this, doctors sometimes use a special X-ray of the breast called a mammogram. After this X-ray—or sometimes instead of it—the doctor may use a small needle to extract some fluid from the lump in your breast, if his examination suggests that fluid is present. This operation is easily accomplished with virtually no discomfort to the patient. If some fluid is obtained and the lump or thickened area then disappears, nothing further is required other than the usual follow up examinations.

Perhaps your doctor will decide, on the basis of his examination, that it's necessary to remove the lump in your breast for closer examination. This is a simple operation called a *biopsy*, and is quite common. It is performed for the same reason as the needle test just described: that is, to find out what's causing the change in your breast tissue. The choice of which method to use depends entirely on the doctor, but the purpose is the same. On the off chance that you *do* have breast cancer, it is imperative that both you and your doctor find out immediately. Luckily, cancer of the breast usually responds well to early detection and treatment.

In summary then, the lump in your breast may or may not be early breast cancer. Most likely it isn't, and can be taken care of with simple treatment—if indeed you need any treatment at all. On the other hand, don't forget that breast cancer can occur in any woman of any age. For the sake of your health—not to mention your peace of mind—you *must* find out immediately what is causing any change you discover in your breast. Call your doctor's office for an appointment right away. Not tomorrow or next week, but now. *Today!*

About skin cancer

Skin cancer is the commonest form of cancer in this country—though luckily, it can almost always be cured.

First of all, what causes it? Most often harmful rays from the sun, although there are other causes such as industrial irritants and some poisons.

Who gets it? Obviously, people who are exposed to sunshine all year long get skin cancer more often than those who aren't; this means that it's commoner in the South. Also, since white people's skin contains less coloring matter and is more sensitive to the sun than black people's, they get skin cancer more often than blacks.

How can you prevent it? Cut down on the amount of time you spend in the sun. Wear hats with broad brims and clothes that protect as much of your skin as possible—especially if you work outside. Don't spend long hours sunbathing, and if you do like to get a tan in summer, at least ask a skin doctor which suntan lotions are best for screening out the harmful rays. Many suntan preparations are of little value.

What does it look like? Some skin cancer begins with a change in a wart or mole that you've had for some time. This is an especially important signal to watch out for because skin cancer that develops this way often spreads more quickly than other kinds.

Most forms of skin cancer begin from a lump or bump in the skin, or from a sore that doesn't heal within three to four weeks. Some lumps look like warts; the top part becomes dry and scaly and an open sore eventually develops. In the beginning, you can move the cancer sore or lump around in your skin, but as the cancer spreads, it becomes fixed to the skin's lower layers. This is dangerous because then the cancer can spread to other parts of your body, especially to the glands that drain the area where the cancer began.

How do you know if you've got it? The only way to decide for sure whether a skin sore or lump is cancerous is to have a small piece of it removed. To do this, the doctor first injects some pain-killing medicine into your skin and then snips off a small piece to examine under a microscope. This procedure is called a *biopsy*.

What if it is cancer? Cancerous lumps are usually removed by simple surgery in the doctor's office, using a hot electric needle. You're given a pain killing injection first, the heat of the needle stops all bleeding, and you're left with only a very small scar. The whole process is fairly quick and simple.

With some skin cancer, the sore is bigger and it has to be cut out instead. In that case, the doctor will take a few stitches to close up the gap in the skin and you may have a slightly larger scar—but even then, it's usually not very noticeable.

If you keep out of the sun and watch out for possible symptoms, you probably won't have to worry much about skin cancer. Remember, you can see changes in *your* skin, so *you* are the one who can do something about skin cancer.

The Pap smear

The Pap smear is a simple test that can detect cancer of the cervix.

To begin with, the cervix is the mouth of the womb that extends down into the vagina. The Pap test, or Pap smear, as it is also called, is a simple, painless test that can be done in a few minutes by a doctor during an office examination. A sample of the cells and secretions present in the mouth of your womb is taken and analyzed under a microscope. Even if it turns out there are cancer cells present, you may not know it, and that's why the

Pap smear is so important—it can uncover cancer before you suspect you have it and often before your doctor can see it.

We estimate there are *21 million* women who have never had a Pap smear, even though cancer of the cervix is the second most common cancer in women. But what is interesting is that among women who do have Pap tests regularly, death from cancer of the cervix is very rare.

When cancer of the cervix is allowed to progress to advanced stages, you may have bleeding, pain, and heavy discharge. At this stage, your doctor can easily see the cancer, and it will be much harder to cure if, indeed, it can still be cured.

A Pap smear costs only a few dollars, and in many clinics the service is completely free. We at the MCV Cancer Center have seen too many women die from cancer of the cervix needlessly. This isn't meant to scare you—only to inform you. Remember, if you get a Pap smear at least once a year, you'll be doing yourself a favor. You won't have to worry about cancer of the mouth of your womb, and if the Pap smear indicates you do have it, you'll have caught it early enough that the disease can be completely cured.

Industrial causes of cancer

To begin with, doing research on industrial causes of cancer hasn't been easy, because it sometimes takes the disease as long as twenty or thirty years to show up after an employee has been exposed to the cancer-producing substance. And then, too, the research has been complicated because many employees change jobs after only a short exposure to the substance under study.

However, we now know that when metal is processed at a high temperature, metallic dusts are produced. So far we've found that dust from asbestos, arsenic, beryllium, chromium, nickel, and uranium can cause cancer of the lung, dust from cobalt can cause muscular cancer, and dust from cadmium can cause cancer of the testicle and liver. In addition to metals, there are also chemicals used for making many dyes which are known to cause cancer of the bladder.

In proving industrial causes of cancer, the increase in a certain type of cancer in employees must be very large, as compared to that of the general population. For instance, although there have been only about twenty cases of cancer of the liver reported among employees who work around vinyl chloride, that type of cancer is so rare that it takes only those twenty cases to convince researchers that vinyl chloride *does* cause cancer of the liver. Of course, the greater the exposure to cancer-causing substances in the work environment, the more likely the worker is to develop cancer. It is important that workers keep themselves clean and free of dusts or other substances which may collect on their clothing and to follow strict safety precautions in order to minimize the chances of getting cancer from industrial causes.

Cancer of the lung

Lung cancer has been increasing steadily during the last fifty years.

First, let's talk about what causes lung cancer. Well, there's good reason to think it's linked to cigarette smoking, as few nonsmokers ever get the disease. People who are exposed to uranium and asbestos in the course of their work often get lung cancer, and sometimes even air pollution can cause it.

As for who gets it, about five times as many men as women get lung cancer, but the attack rate in women has doubled in the last fifteen years. It's more common in people between the ages of fifty and seventy and, as we said, *much* more common in smokers than nonsmokers.

How do you know if you've got it? With lung cancer, there are no easy warning signals. Instead, this kind of cancer spreads until it interferes with the other parts of your body. Often your first clue may be that you're feeling tired and weak, or that your arms and legs hurt. Lung cancer patients sometimes develop a nagging cough, hoarseness, or difficulty in swallowing. Often they breathe noisily, cough up bloody phlegm, and are short of breath. As lung cancer invades the other areas of the body, it may cause pains in the chest, swollen fingers, loss of appetite, or even pneumonia.

Obviously, if any of these things have been bothering you, you'll want to see a doctor right away. The most common way he can test for lung cancer is to have an X-ray taken of your chest, which will show up any cancerous spots on the lungs. He also can examine your sputum, or spit, under a microscope. If these methods aren't conclusive, there are several ways the doctor can reach your lungs—using tubes or needles—to snip a piece of the diseased lung tissue for examination under a microscope.

For patients who do have lung cancer, the best treatment is to remove the lung, or a part of it—*if* the disease has not yet spread to other organs in the body. If it has, treatment will be either by X-ray or by medication.

What are the chances of survival? Not good. Only about one out of twenty patients with lung cancer lives for longer than five years from the time the disease is first discovered.

This isn't meant to scare you, it's meant to inform you. But now that you know the facts about lung cancer, you know how important it is to get to a doctor quickly if you even suspect you have the disease.

The following is a list of the tape titles currently available through the Health-Line.

How to Discover Cancer Early
About Skin Cancer
What to Do if You Find a Lump in Your Breast
Breast Cancer: Self Exam
Cancer of the Lung
Deaths from Cancer
Cancer of the Mouth
Cancer of the Larynx
Pain
Cancer of the Cervix
Where People Live and Cancer
Nursing Care for Cancer Patients
Mammography
Treating Breast Cancer with Hormones and Chemotherapy
Microscopy in the Diagnosis of Cancer
Living with Cancer
Industrial Causes of Cancer
Occupational Therapy
Chemical Causes of Cancer
General Causes of Cancer
Physical Examinations
Extended Care in Nursing Homes or Convalescent Centers
Cancer of the Ovaries
Discovery and Treatment of Cancer of the Mouth
Physical Therapy
The Pap Smear
Biopsies
Moles that Become Cancer (Melanoma)

Beverly Ziegler *leads her "urban campers" across a bridge in James River Park.*

Campers hike *a half mile along a park trail lined with tall grass and Queen Anne's lace.*

Good times here are not forgotten

Remember when your grandpa used to take you fishing? Remember? He'd load you, a can of fishing worms, and a couple of bamboo fishing poles into the back of his battered pickup and head down to the river. Sometimes you'd ride in the back with the homemade poles as they clacked against the vibrating bed of the truck. Once at the river's edge, you'd slide over the side panel to the running board, regain your balance, and drop to the damp ground that squished between your toes as you landed not far from the blackberry and honeysuckle hedges.

Your grandpa then drew the long poles out one at a time, propped them against the rusting fender, strung several yards of fishing line, threaded a cork bobber, and knotted the hook. Then you'd hand him the can of wiggley worms, but only after you peered inside and withdrew your squinched up nose. Bravely, it seemed, your grandpa reached in the can, drew out a fat, slithering earthworm, and speared the squirming little devil with the hook. Remember? Then he'd finally hand you the pole and guide your stubby arms as the two of you tossed the hook and line into the slowly drifting river. And there you stood, holding your fishing pole, waiting for the first bite. Remember?

Today, grandpas don't seem to have enough time for fishing trips. Or else, they live too far away.

One morning last June, Beverly and Donald Ziegler took twenty-two Richmond youngsters fishing—many of them for the first time. The Zieglers—both wearing "Richmond: Good times here are not forgotten" tee shirts—loaded the six-to-ten-year-olds into two university-owned station wagons and headed down to James River Park, just across Lee Bridge from Richmond's downtown skyline. There they hiked along the mile-long nature trail, picking up branches along the way that would later serve as fishing poles. After visiting the park ranger's station and picnicking on boloney sandwiches, the eager city youths went fishing.

Donald strung the line, threaded bobbers, and tied hooks to twenty-two mite-size fishing poles. Beverly popped open cans of store-bought buttermilk biscuit dough and lopped the gooey bait onto each hook. One by one the kids perched on the river bank and dangled their lines into the swiftly moving James. Everyone waited.

"Shhhhh. You have to be quiet if you want any fish to come by here," warned Beverly. Almost everyone grew quiet. And waited.

"Eeeeeeeek," screeched a little voice.

Heads turned to see a flurry of fishing poles being yanked out of the water. Sure enough, on one hook flapped a six-inch fish, and holding the pole was a beaming eight-year-old fisherman. Carefully, Donald freed the fish from the hook and threw it back into the churning river. Hands scrambled after more biscuit dough bait. Soon, another squeal. Another fish had been hooked on a homemade pole. Again, back it went into the James.

Although the two fish that were returned to the river were the extent of the day's catch, first-timers still could tell a tale or two about the ones that got away.

For teachers Beverly and Donald Ziegler, both VCU graduates, the day's fishing expedition was but one of a series of sum-

Donald Ziegler *holds a hand.*

Fishing *and waiting along the James.*

Toting *back the days' supplies.*

Photographs by John Henley

Beverly points out *the falls of the James, the Lee Bridge, and features of the Richmond skyline from a riverside observation point.*

mer experiences planned to introduce local youths to the James River and to the city of Richmond. Sponsored by VCU's Center for Continuing Education, "Urban Exploration" consisted of six one-week sessions, June 21 to July 30, designed to provide both urban and suburban children with an opportunity to become acquainted with the city—to see and experience things that many parents have missed or else forgotten.

According to Beverly, who teaches kindergarten at Richmond's John B. Cary Model School, many children are ignorant of a lot of things in their own city, whether they have been isolated in their own neighborhoods or whether they have traveled to Europe. "Parents will take their children to Kings Dominion [an elaborate theme park north of Richmond] but not to the city's Seventeenth Street Farmers' Market, which can be educational," says Beverly. She's convinced that "there is a lot of good in the city" and she ably demonstrated that the city itself can become a worthwhile "classroom."

Mrs. Ziegler, the former Beverly Brown, earned her master's degree in elementary education from VCU last year. Her previous experience teaching first and second graders and as coordinator of the Ethnic Studies Center led to her selection as instructor of the continuing education center's first "urban camp." She was assisted by her husband, Donald, who teaches visual literacy at Baker School. He earned his master's degree in art history from VCU in 1974.

The urban camp provided several dozen Richmond youngsters with an entertaining, exciting, and informative alternative to summer vacation days. Each of the cleverly titled sessions was devoted to different aspects of Richmond's culture, heritage, and diversity. The first week's session, "The Mighty James," explored the historic James River and included tours of the canals and locks, as well as hikes, nature studies, and the fishing expedition. "Around the World in Five Days" examined the rich cultural diversity found in the metropolitan area, while "Ghosts of Richmond Past" stressed the contributions of outstanding Richmonders of the past. Food production, processing, and distribution was the subject of "Richmond on a Sesame Seed Bun." "Making It in Richmond" featured visits to Richmond manufacturing plants, just as "The Great Turn On" included tours of newspapers, printers, and radio and television stations.

The unique urban camp itself was the subject of a radio interview broadcast nationwide over the National Public Radio network program "All Things Considered." Beverly and Donald Ziegler were interviewed by fellow alumnus Carlton Brooks, news director of WRFK-FM in Richmond, who provided the taped interview to the radio network.

In addition to "Urban Exploration," the Center for Continuing Education offered more than twenty summer programs for youths six to sixteen. There were art courses—drawing, painting, weaving, woodworking, jewelry making, and denim decorating—as well as classes in photography, music, and swimming. There even was one course for children of all ages, American comic art, taught by M. Thomas Inge, chairman of VCU's English department and an authority on the comics.

Did you know...

Flattened by a steamroller

VCU's "affirmative action" plan has been declared unconstitutional by U.S. District Court Judge D. Dortch Warriner. In a decision handed down June 1, Judge Warriner found that a white male professor, James Cramer, Ph.D., had been the victim of "reverse discrimination."

Dr. Cramer, who joined VCU's Department of Sociology and Anthropology in 1973 as a temporary instructor, filed suit after he was denied a permanent teaching position in the department in 1974. He argued that although he was qualified he was passed over for two appointments because he was a man. (Cramer has a B.S. in criminology and correction, an M.A. in sociology and criminal justice, and a Ph.D. in sociology.) He also claimed that VCU's employment practices favoring the hiring and promotion of women amounted to "reverse discrimination." The judge agreed, saying that Cramer had been "flattened by the civil rights steamroller."

Although it acknowledged that Cramer had been discriminated against because of his sex, the university sought to excuse its action, contending that its affirmative action program had been formulated "to fulfill the national and state policy of affirmatively seeking women and minority employees as a device to eliminate the effects of past discrimination against these groups."

Judge Warriner took issue with the federal and state mandates, saying "the primary —the only—beneficiaries of affirmative action plans and their siblings are the thousands of persons engaged in the civil rights business, bureaucrats, lawyers, lobbyists, and politicians."

Moreover, he said that "by requiring employers to engage in widespread, pervasive, and invidious sex discrimination through the implementation of the pervading affirmative action programs, the U.S. Government is merely perpetuating the very social injustices which it so enthusiastically and properly seeks to remedy." The use of such "discriminatory practices," he said, "is the use of an unconstitutional means to achieve an unconstitutional end.

"There will never be sex or racial peace," added the judge, "until the idea of sex or racial discrimination is dead and buried."

Since Dr. Cramer did not seek reinstatement, back pay, or monetary damages in his suit, the judge's ruling simply prohibits the university "from any further implementation of affirmative action or any other program that thus offends the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and...Title VII" of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The ruling, however, has left university officials with significant problems in the administration of employment practices. On the one hand the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare is pressing the university to hire more blacks and women. On the other hand, Judge Warriner has ruled the program designed to implement the HEW order unconstitutional.

Hoping to obtain a clear direction in hiring practices, the VCU board of visitors directed the university to file an appeal in the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

Kepone researching

By now few people have not heard the word *Kepone*, the trade name for the chemical chlordecone. It has made headlines across the country, been mispronounced by Walter Cronkite, and given Hopewell a reputation that no city would ever want.

Traces of Kepone have been found in

Proper Victorians: *Tea, cakes, and ankle-length dresses were in order for guests at the Victorian Tea hosted by the history department's Alexandrian Society. Members researched manners and recipes of Queen Victoria's time and borrowed period costumes from the fashion design department's apparel museum. The event was occasioned by the presentation of faculty awards and a respite before spring semester exams.*

Photograph by Richmond Newspapers

the blood of workers who produced it at the Life Science Products Corporation plant in Hopewell. The toxin has also been discovered in the blood of the workers' wives, children, and in some instances, even in their pets. In all, seventy-six former employees of Life Science and forty residents living in the immediate area have traces of Kepone in their blood.

Virginia Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr., deemed it necessary to close some areas of the James River to fishermen because Kepone waste had been dumped in the waterway. This decision put numerous people, many of them self-employed, out of work for months.

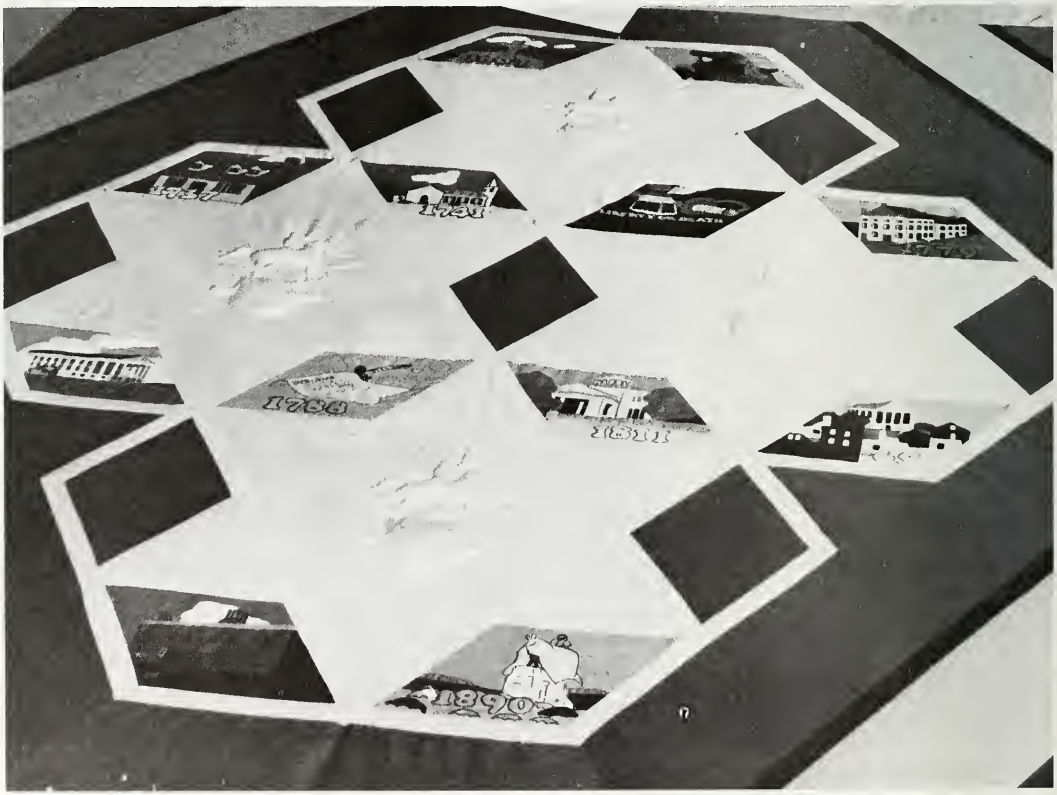
Kepone, which was produced in small quantities in Germany and the United States from the mid-1950s until 1974, was Life Science's only product and was made exclusively for the Allied Chemical Corporation. The chemical is used to exterminate fire ants, but now its effects on humans and the environment have resulted in lawsuits against Allied Chemical Corporation and its subsidiary, Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corporation, which are almost astronomical in damage settlements requested. By the middle of April, pending Kepone-related lawsuits totaled $145.1 million. These proceedings involve former Life Science employees and their families, fishermen, and the state of Virginia.

For a product so potent, devastating, and capable of creating so much havoc, Kepone has been a relative stranger in research laboratories. In order to design and conduct investigations answering specific questions about the toxin, the efforts of a group of scientists at the Medical College of Virginia have been brought to bear on the problem. The spokesman for this research group is Dr. Philip S. Guzelian, as assistant professor of medicine and pharmacology. Working closely with him are Dr. Robert V. Blanke, professor of clinical pathology and pharmacology, and Dr. Joseph E. Borzelleca, professor of pharmacology.

Not only is the day-to-day existence of Kepone patients uncomfortable, but the toxin has also endangered an important part of their futures. The men who actually handled the chemical are sterile, incapable of producing children. Some question has been raised as to whether their children, who were exposed to the pesticide through their parents, will become sterile as well. Guzelian will make studies to see if this reaction is reversible.

While the information acquired from the patients will be valuable, more detailed research will be conducted on animals. Preliminary experiments will be conducted to determine the animal most closely resembling man for a particular facet of Kepone toxicity or its pharmacokinetics. The groundwork will be laid with the rat in mind. All research will be done in parallel with human studies and amplify Kepone associated toxicity in man.

One of the main facets of the poisoning that can be studied in animals, but not in humans, is the distribution of chemicals in tissues. By sacrificing the animals at various intervals, it will be possible to determine the pesticide's concentration in areas such as the brain, heart, kidney, and lung. It will also be possible to study the subcellular dis-



Bicentennial quilt, *designed by student John Hoar, depicts twelve historic scenes from Richmond's past. Twenty women enrolled in a quilting class offered by VCU's Center for Continuing Education spent a total of 1,000 hours stitching the quilt, which is now in the permanent collection of Richmond's Valentine Museum.*

Photograph by Richmond Newspapers

tribution of the pesticide in areas which act as reservoirs for it, such as the liver. Biotransformation, the change of a chemical compound into another chemical compound within the body, will also be studied in the animals at this stage.

One other very important experimental step will be to test other drugs and potential therapeutic compounds to discover their ability to alter the toxin already in the body.

In these times of increasing potential for industrial pollution of the environment, it is unrealistic to assume that incidents like this will never occur again. It is hoped that the experience of the MCV scientists dealing with the Kepone problem will help others in planning new approaches to control such outbreaks and enable them to avert tragedy of such proportions.

The above item has been abridged from the summer issue of Research in Action, *VCU's new three-times-a-year research magazine.*

Computer mix-up

At first it looked as if the battle lines were being drawn. On one side was the director of the state's Division of Automated Data Processing (ADP), R.C. Moschler, Jr., and on the other, VCU President T. Edward Temple. The confrontation began in April when Moschler ordered VCU to merge its computer facilities with those of the state's community college system. President Temple, at the direction of the university's board of visitors, took the virtually unprecedented step of openly defying the order backed by the authority of the governor.

Moschler argued that consolidation of the two computer facilities would save taxpayers up to $750,000 each biennium. Temple challenged the figure, making it clear that he objected to the ADP's terms and conditions for merger, not the merger itself. Specifically, the university opposed the transfer of seventeen VCU employees to the ADP payroll, the division's managing a merged computer facility, and a timetable requiring the consolidation by September 1. The board of visitors also rejected the "asserted authority" of one state agency to order merger of facilities under the control of two other agencies, meaning VCU and the community colleges.

The battle raged publicly in the press until Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr., called the contestants together for a succession of conferences in which merger terms were hammered out.

The parties agreed to merge the computer facilities by September 1 as originally ordered; however, VCU and the community college system will supervise the facilities, while the ADP will authorize the acquisition of new equipment, supplies, and services. It also was agreed that VCU and the community colleges would get additional computer capacity.

By midsummer the community colleges' computer operation and staff had moved into VCU's computer facilities on the fourth floor of the School of Business building. A new IBM 158 computer system was also installed, replacing the community colleges' smaller system. Yet to be resolved at the time this was being written, however, was the matter of who shall employ the staff of the joint center.

The computers are used by students and faculty engaged in research activities, as well as for administrative purposes, such as student registration and payroll preparation.

The first degrees

Two former rectors of VCU's board of visitors, Virginius Dabney and Eppa Hunton IV, have received the first honorary degrees awarded by Virginia Commonwealth University. Hunton, a Richmond attorney, received the Doctor of Laws degree, while Dabney, editor of the *Richmond Times Dispatch* for thirty-four years, was awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters degree. The honors were conferred during commencement exercises in the Richmond Coliseum on May 15.

Dabney, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for editorials in 1948, served as VCU's first rector, from 1968 to 1969. He was succeeded by Hunton, who held the post during 1969-70. Prior to his being appointed to the board, Hunton served thirty-four years on the board of the Medical College of Virginia, one of VCU's parent institutions.

Dabney, who delivered the commencement address, warned the 3,175 graduates that the people of the United States "are too soft, too self-indulgent, too indifferent to what is going on.

"Watergate and Vietnam have taken their toll, have divided this country and created a mood of indifference, to the extent that it will apparently take some sort of severe shock to rouse us to the realities," said the retired editor.

He warned of problems within the country and of threats from without. "This country of ours, it seems to me, is passing through a highly dangerous period. There is wrangling and squabbling in Washington, and apathy and indifference on the part of the American people, at the very time when the Soviet Union is pushing forward on nearly all fronts."

It is up to "the graduates of Virginia Commonwealth University and others of your generation to bring us back from the precipice and lead this nation on to greater and greater heights of achievement," said Dabney.

The History of RPI

Dr. Henry H. Hibbs has written a personal account of Richmond Professional Institute from its modest beginning in 1917 to its consolidation with the Medical College of Virginia to form Virginia Commonwealth University in 1968. The book, entitled **The History of the Richmond Professional Institute,** is hardbound in an attractive 8"×11" format, contains 164 pages, and is generously illustrated with photographs and drawings.

The book, priced at $12.50, has been published by the RPI Foundation and is available exclusively through the Alumni Activities Office.

Alumni Activities Office
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia 23284

Please make checks payable to Virginia Commonwealth University

Please send me:

☐ **History of RPI** postpaid @ $12.50

Name

Address

City

State Zip

Whatever happened to...

If you take a new job, get a promotion, earn another degree, receive an honor, or decide to retire, share the news with us, and we will pass it along to your classmates via the "Whatever happened to..!" section. Please address newsworthy items to Editor, VCU Magazine, *Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia 23284.*

1930s

E. Claiborne Robins (B.S., pharmacy '33), chairman of the board of A.H. Robins Company, has received the Jackson Davis Award for distinguished service to higher education in Virginia. The award, presented annually by the Virginia Conference of the American Association of University Professors, was bestowed at a dinner April 15 in the Hibbs Building on VCU's academic campus. The A.H. Robins Company is a Richmond-based pharmaceutical manufacturer.

Evelyn W. Kemp (B.S., social science '36) has worked as a caseworker for the Richmond welfare department for the past thirty-five years.

Walter E. Vermilya (M.D. '36) has been elected chief of staff of Emmett Memorial Hospital in Clifton Forge, Va.

Madge Arbogast Henderson (B.S., sociology '37) has retired from her position as head of the business department at John Marshall High School. Last November the Richmond City Council appointed her to a committee charged with studying matters pertaining to the elderly.

Anne Coleman Scott (M.S., social work '38), of Tarrytown, N.Y., is a psychiatric social worker at the Westchester County Medical Center.

1940s

Ann Powell Satterfield (B.S., social science '43), a member of the VCU board of visitors, has been selected to head the metropolitan section of Richmond's 1976 United Givers Fund. Her husband is David E. Satterfield III, Virginia's congressman from the Third Congressional District.

Ruth R. Brewer (nursing '45) works summers at a camp as a camp nurse. She lives in Salem, Va.

Morton O. Alper (D.D.S. '47) has been elected secretary of Guaranty Bank and Trust Company of Fairfax, Va. He has served as a member of the bank's board of directors since its founding in 1964. In addition to his dental practice, Dr. Alper is active in Kiwanis International, having served as president of the Georgetown, D.C., club and as governor of the Capital District, which embraces Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. He also has served as president of the District of Columbia Dental Society and holds memberships in both the American and international colleges of dentists. He lives with his artist-wife in Arlington, Va.

Josephine Harvey Snead (B.S., social welfare '49), principal of Fork Union Elementary School in Fork Union, Va., has been elected president of the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals.

1950s

Wanda O. McCune (nursing '50) moved from the Canal Zone to Anchorage, Alaska, last year. Her husband is with the Federal Aviation Agency, and she works at the Alaska Native Medical Center.

Lillian E. Peyton (nursing '50), of Richmond, has retired after working thirty years as a nurse consultant with the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control.

Iris Cohn (B.F.A. '51) is employed at the Oswego County Mental Health Center in Oswego, N.Y. She earned her M.S.W. degree from Syracuse University and is a New York State certified social worker.

R. Milton Crump, Jr. (B.S., psychology '53) has been appointed director of technical assistance, Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, Office of the Executive Secretary.

Ernest G. Edwards (M.D. '53), of Santa Ana, Calif., is president and chairman of the board of directors of the Iatros Medical Group. He is also chairman of the pathology department at Santa Ana-Tustin Community Hospital, assistant clinical professor at the University of California at Irvine, and past-president of the Orange County (Calif.) Pathological Society.

Edward G. Thomas (B.S., economics '53) is distribution and accounting manager with Exxon Company, U.S.A., in Wilmington, Del. He has been with Exxon for twenty years.

Elizabeth Giesecke Clark (certificate, accounting '55) received an associate applied science degree in medical record technology from the College of Lake County (Ill.) in May. She and her husband, **Bryan L. Clark, Jr.** (B.S., business '54), live in Great Lakes, Ill.

Joan Dod Douglass (B.A., sociology '55) now lives in Edina, Minn. Before moving from Baton Rouge, La., she was working on a graduate degree in library science and was doing research in the entomology department at Louisiana State University.

C. Eugene White (B.S., pharmacy '56), of Mechanicsville, Va., was named alumnus of the year by the Alpha Delta chapter of Phi Delta Chi pharmacy fraternity at MCV. He is associate professor of pharmacy at MCV.

Ann P. Frederick (medical technology '57; M.A. '75), a photographer, teaches in the art department at the University of Richmond. Her photographs have been exhibited at the University of Richmond, Richard Bland College, and the Southeastern Center of Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Charles Merritt Pulley (B.F.A., interior design '57), of Richmond, is director of all of the Miller & Rhoads interior design studios. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Interior Designers and past-president of the Virginia chapter of AID.

W. Harvey McWilliams (B.F.A. '59; M.F.A., printmaking '69) exhibited some of his recent works at the University of Richmond last spring. On display were prints he made using a photocopy machine and his own face and hands. One local art critic acclaimed the exhibit as "the most arresting work I have seen in Richmond for a long time." McWilliams teaches art at the University of Richmond and is special design coordinator for the Virginia State Library.

Joseph J. Sakakini, Jr. (M.D. '59) has completed a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine and has returned to Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash., to become head of the obstetric service. Before returning to Tacoma, Dr. Sakakini and his wife, **Cecilia C. Sakakini** (nursing '60), live in El Paso, Tex.

Herbert L. Walker (B.S., pharmacy '59) has been elected to the Galax (Va.) City Council. He placed second out of a field of ten candidates for three council positions. Walker is head pharmacist at the Galax hospital and owns his own pharmacy.

Shirley F. Wampler (nursing '59) is director of resident health services at Westminster-Canterbury House, a church-sponsored retirement center in Richmond. Mrs. Wampler is responsible for developing a plan of home health care for the center's senior citizens.

1960s

Robert M. Harper (B.S., distributive education '60), director of vocational, career, and adult education for the Alexandria (Va.) City Public Schools, has been awarded a doctorate in education by Nova University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Dr. Harper is also president of the Virginia Vocational Association.

William G. Ellis, Jr. (M.D. '61) is working as a pediatric anesthesiologist at Akron Children's Hospital in Akron, Ohio.

Elizabeth Pritchett Bimson (B.S., sociology '61; M.S., social work '63) is supervisor of outpatient services for Comprehensive Mental Health Services. She and her husband, **J. Dale Bimson** (B.S., social science '61), live in Virginia Beach, Va.

Donald D. Jennings (B.S., business '62) has been named manager of systems design and development for the New York office of Philip Morris, U.S.A. He lives with his wife and family in Hamilton Square, N.J.

Joseph C. Parker, Jr. (M.D. '62) is director of the neuropathology division at the University of Miami School of Medicine, where he is also professor of pathology. He is teaching, practicing pathology, and conducting research into disorders of the central nervous system. Dr. Parker assumed his present position after moving from Lexington, Ky., last year.

Harry E. (Woody) Eney (B.F.A., drama '63; M.F.A., drama '65) and **Samuel C. As-Said** (B.F.A., drama '66) recently finished performances in

Hole in the Wall and *Click* at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. They are presently forming their own production company.

Lowell J. Rosman (M.D. '63) is practicing neurosurgery in Lawrence, Lowell, and Haverhill, Mass. He also holds a part-time faculty position as assistant clinical professor of neurological surgery at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston.

Daniel B. Suter (graduate studies '63), chairman of the biology department at Eastern Mennonite College, has been appointed associate dean of sciences at the Harrisonburg, Va., school.

Donald S. Good (hospital administration '64), a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force, graduated in May from the senior air force professional school, Air War College, after a year of study at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala. His new assignment is as chief of manpower, Office of the Surgeon General, Headquarters, USAF, Washington, D.C.

Kenneth R. Jenkins (B.S., business '64), of Richmond, is purchasing director for Reynolds International.

Vivien King Ely (M.S., distributive education '65), associate professor of distributive education at VCU, has been awarded a $45,000 grant for a project to install competency-based instruction in distributive education programs in Virginia.

Sigsby W. Gayle (M.D. '65), clinical instructor in medicine at MCV, has been appointed by Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr., to the VCU board of visitors. He fills the unexpired term of H. Nathaniel Taylor, of Richmond, who resigned. The term expires July 1, 1977.

Gordon A. Russell (B.F.A., commercial art '65) is vice-president of Graphicsgroup, an Atlanta-based communications studio. He returned to Richmond last May to address a meeting of the local Society of Communicating Arts.

Charles Richard Harrison (B.S., journalism '66) is a real estate investment counselor with Paul Langley and Company in San Francisco, Calif.

Frederick B. Sperry (M.H.A. '66) is fiscal director of Philadelphia (Pa.) General Hospital.

Robert Neal Stamback (B.M., music education '66; M.M.E., '71) is director of the Lake Braddock Secondary School Symphonic Chorale of Fairfax County, Va. The seventy-five-voice choir performed during the nationally-televised Easter sunrise service at Mount Vernon for President Gerald Ford. Stamback, who is also chairman of the school's music department, is president-elect of the Virginia Choral Directors Association and conductor of the Virginia Choral, a student chorus that has performed in Europe for the past five years.

Edward P. Newell, Jr. (B.S., business '66) has been elected vice-president of marketing at the Sun Bank of Daytona Beach, Fla. He formerly was director of marketing for Metropolitan National Bank in Richmond.

Andrea Respess Clapp (B.S., retailing '67) is project director of the emergency medical services system being developed for the Thomas Jefferson Planning District, which includes the Virginia counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa, Nelson, and Greene. She lives in Charlottesville, where she is associated with the University of Virginia biomedical engineering department.

R. Weldon Hazelwood (B.S., business '67), of Richmond, has been promoted to assistant treasurer and controller of North America Assurance Society of Virginia. He joined the company in 1969 as controller.

Thomas R. Moser (B.M., applied music, '67), a lyric tenor, made his debut last March at the Bavarian National Theater in Munich, West Germany. He also has signed a contract for the coming season with the Vienna Staatsoper. Moser lives in Graz, Austria, with his wife and daughter.

Arthur M. Bailey, Jr. (M.S., rehabilitation counseling '68) is the new director of student services at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond.

Rita Busse Gulliksen (B.M., piano '68; M.M., applied music '69) is organist at St. Edward's Church in Bon Air, Va. She also teaches in VCU's Evening College and gives private piano instruction.

Myrl L. Hairfield (B.S., business management '68) has been promoted to general sales manager of Busch Properties, which operates the planned community of Kingsmill on the James River near Williamsburg, Va. Before joining the firm two years ago, Hairfield was an investment broker in Richmond.

Holli Newman Olshansky (B.S., elementary education '68) is completing an M.A. degree in guidance counseling. Her husband **Norman Olshansky** (B.S., social welfare '70) has received his M.S.W. and is working at the Jewish Community Center in Memphis, Tenn.

W. Barry Stevens (B.F.A. '68; M.F.A., painting and printmaking '70) teaches painting, drawing, design, and commercial art at Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Va.

Elsa Perry Brooks (B.S., accounting '69), an accountant with Blue Cross of Virginia, has been elected president of the Richmond chapter of the American Society of Women Accountants. Her husband, **Randall Brooks** (B.S., accounting '69; M.S., business '74), is computer manager for the F. Richard Wilton Company. They live in Richmond.

Robert A. Jones (B.S., accounting '69), a CPA, has joined United Virginia Bankshares as assistant regional auditor for the capital region. He previously was a senior staff auditor with Coopers and Lybrand, a Richmond CPA firm.

Beverly Beasley Judd (B.S., business education '69; M. Ed., guidance and counseling '71) is a guidance counselor at Lee Davis High School in Mechanicsville, Va. Her husband, **Walter Talley Judd** (M.S., physiology '72), is a weapons controller stationed at Ft. Lee, Va.

R. Paul McCauley (B.S., law enforcement '69), professor and director of graduate studies in the administration of justice department at the University of Louisville, has recently coauthored a textbook entitled, *The Criminal Justice System: An Introduction*. Dr. McCauley, who is listed in the thirty-ninth edition of *Who's Who in America*, also was a guest speaker at Harvard University's Institute of Politics of the Kennedy School of Government. He represented the National Crime Prevention Institute and presented a paper on "Community Crime Prevention: Equal Partnership and General Deterrence" during the Harvard seminar on "Making the Criminal Justice System Work."

Alicia Alicki O'Brien (B.F.A., interior design '69), of Lenoir, N.C., is now area sales manager for Belk Stores of Charlotte, N.C. She lived in Italy three years, during which time she traveled and studied in Europe.

Donna Martin Pence (B.S., nursing '69), a pediatric nurse practitioner, is presently working at the naval hospital in Quantico, Va.

Arnold Lee Powell (M.S., business '69) heads a firm specializing in noise and air pollution control equipment. The Richmond firm is Arnold Powell and Associates.

Merrill F. Prugh (M.D. '69) has completed his fellowship in gastroenterology at McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital in Richmond and has entered private practice in northern Virginia.

John Meade Shore (B.S., business management '69) has been promoted to data services officer in United Virginia Bank's commercial division. He resides in Richmond.

Joseph Suarez (B.S., pharmacy '69), of Mechanicsville, Va., has been elected president of Phi Delta Chi Brothers of Virginia, the alumni chapter of the pharmacy fraternity at the MCV School of Pharmacy. Other officers of the organization are: **Charles Edward Hutcheson** (B.S. pharmacy '68; D.D.S. '72), vice-president; **Wayne L. Spellman** (B.S., pharmacy '75), secretary; and **Ronald G. Davis** (B.S., pharmacy '73), treasurer.

Eileen Nause Wagner (B.S., English education '69), who received a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Virginia in 1975, is currently serving as a specialist in the teaching of freshman composition at Virginia Union University in Richmond. She also has taught in VCU's Evening College for the past six years. Several professional journals, among them *English Journal* and *English Education*, have published articles written by Dr. Wagner.

Bailey T. Walker, Jr. (B.S., psychology '69) has entered the Dominican Friars, a Roman Catholic religious order, and has been assigned to the Priory-Church of St. Vincent Ferrer in New York City as a parish assistant. In 1974 he received the Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree from the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., and was ordained to the priesthood in May of 1975. He also is completing requirements for a License in Sacred Theology at the same institution. His dissertation topic is "The Ordination of Women to Diaconate in the Roman Catholic Church." He also collaborated on an annotated bibliography on the ordination of women, which was published in the *Anglican Theological Review*.

1970s

Randolph Davis Eley, Jr. (B.S., business administration '70), of Radford, Va., became a partner in the law firm of Goldsmith, Eley and Andersen last January.

Hanns C. Haesslein (M.D. '70) is now an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of California at Davis. He formerly was associated with Stanford University Medical Center.

Pauline M. Lange (B.S., distributive education '70) has been named Chicago sales manager for the Standard Manifold Company. Last year she received the company's salesperson-of-the-year award.

Frank O'Donnell (B.S., advertising '70) has

Rings and Diplomas

Class Rings

Even if you failed to buy a class ring as a student, you can now order one. Rings for both men and women are available in a wide variety of styles. For more information and a price list, write for a ring order kit and please, specify whether the ring is for a man or a woman.

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

JACK M. HOLT

Bachelor of Science

Confirmation Diplomas

If you earned a degree (not a certificate) from Richmond Professional Institute prior to its becoming Virginia Commonwealth University, you can get a confirmation diploma from VCU. Just write for an application form and return it with $10 to cover the cost of the new diploma.

For the confirmation diploma application form and the ring order kit-price list, please write: Alumni Activities Office, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia 23284.

been named national manager of product performance for Best Products Company. O'Donnell joined the firm in 1969 and was manager of a company showroom in Flint, Mich., before his recent promotion.

Marilyn Greene Rifman (M.Ed., counselor education '70) has received a fellowship to work towards a Ph.D. degree at Oregon State University. Before moving to Corvallis, Ore., Mrs. Rifman was a counselor and foreign student advisor at Inver Hills Community College, just outside Minneapolis, Minn. She also served on the board of the Minnesota Association of School Counselors and College Admissions Officers.

Ellen Gwynne Seal (B.S., nursing '70) is head nurse in the coronary care unit at McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital in Richmond.

Philip J. Burstein (M.D. '71)and his wife, **Jo-Anne Morgan Burstein** (B.S., pharmacy '69), have moved to Denver, Colo., where he has a fellowship in endocrinology at the University of Colorado Medical Center. The Bursteins moved from Myrtle Beach, S.C., where Dr. Burstein recently completed his two-year commitment in the air force.

L. Angelise Davis (nursing '71) is a graduate student in the School of Nursing at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.

Judith Lund Dunlap (B.S., health and physical education '71) has taught physical education in Fairfax County, Va., for the past five years.

Gregory G. Finney (B.F.A., communication arts and design '71) currently is coordinator of public information at Southwest Virginia Community College, near Richlands, Va. He also operates a photographic and design studio part time. He resides with his wife and child in Lebanon, Va.

Charles F. Lambert (B.S., management '71) has assumed the new position of business office manager at the Collegiate Schools in Richmond. Previously, he was with a public accounting firm.

Robert W. MacAleese (M.S., clinical psychology '71), formerly an assistant professor of counseling at Boston University, recently accepted a position as assistant professor and program director in the Department of Counselor Education at Troy State University at Craig Air Force Base in Alabama. He lives in Montgomery, Ala., where he also has a private personnel consulting practice.

Edward J. Maynes (B.S., management '71) is coproperty manager for Rucker and Richardson, Richmond Realtors. He specializes in investment property management and sales.

Mary Dianne Murphy (M.D. '71) is presently on the staff of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

William B. Tinker (M.S., business '71) has been appointed supervisor of corporate budgeting for the Richmond headquarters of the Virginia Electric and Power Company. He joined VEPCO in 1971 as a staff accountant and was named budget analyst in 1973.

Lyman R. Brothers III (M.D. '72) is in San Antonio, Tex., at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center, where he is in his chief resident year in urology.

Reid Joseph Daitzman (M.S., clinical psychology '72) received his doctorate in psychology from the University of Delaware on June 5. His dissertation was on "Personality Correlates of Androgens and Estrogens."

Leslie K. Donat (B.A., history '72) is merchandise manager at the Florence, S.C., Sears store.

Reta Ann Furrey (B.F.A., fashion design '72) is a designer in the lingerie department of Stone Manufacturing Company in Greenville, S.C.

Danny R. Robinson, Sr. (B.S., management '72) is training manager for the Macon, Ga., branch of Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation.

E. Kirk Robinson (B.S., social welfare '72), pastor at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Virginia Beach, Va., received the Master of Divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., in May of 1975.

Mary Lou Skinner (B.S., journalism '72) has been appointed director of publications for the Virginia State Travel Service. Before assuming her present position, she was a staff reporter and travel-feature writer for the *Richmond News Leader.*

Margaret J. Stimpfle (B.S., elementary education '72), of McLean, Va., plans to begin graduate study in therapeutic recreation at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Ore., this fall.

Doris Ann Trauner (M.D. '72) has completed her residency in pediatrics at the University of California at San Diego and is currently doing a pediatric neurology fellowship at the University of Chicago.

Ted N. Tussey (B.S., economics '72), of Richmond, has been appointed trust real estate officer of United Virginia Bank. He is a graduate of the Realtors' Institute of the University of Virginia.

Vance Y. Veynar (B.S., business administration '72) is a naval flight officer at the Norfolk (Va.) Navy Air Station.

Susan Francisco Virden (B.S., journalism '72) is head of the personnel administrative division for the Baltimore County (Md.) Government. A resident of Baltimore, Mrs. Virden received an M.A. degree in public administration from Rider College last year.

Michael H. Wallace (B.S., management '72), a commercial account analyst with Travelers Insurance Company, is working on an M.S. degree in business at VCU part time. He and his wife, **Gail Howard Wallace** (B.S., elementary education '72), live in Richmond.

Janice Arone (B.F.A., sculpture '73) exhibited her stoneware pottery in March at the Crafter's Gallery in Charlottesville, Va., her home for the past three years.

Luther L. Blalock (B.S., English education '73) is training supervisor for Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation in Macon, Ga. He transferred from the company's operation in Petersburg, Va.

Cleveland Francis, Jr. (M.D. '73) has completed his residency in internal medicine at George Washington University Hospital. In July he began a two-year fellowship in cardiology at GWU. Dr. Francis lives in Arlington, Va.

Lawrence Charles Haake III (B.S., administration of justice and public safety '73), a patrolman with the Richmond Police Bureau, has been named the bureau's rookie of the year. Haake, who was selected by a panel of high-ranking police officials, joined the police bureau in 1974, when he transferred from the city's Bureau of Emergency Communications.

Michael D. Kitchen (M.H.A. '73), a former administrator at Lewis Gale Hospital in Salem, Va., has been named administrator of Montgomery County (Va.) Hospital.

Jackson W. Landham III (M.S., business '73), who served until recently as an army shop officer at Ft. Riley, Kans., plans to enter Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., this fall.

David A. Lough (B.S., marketing '73), a first lieutenant in the air force, is stationed at Torrejon Air Base in Spain. He copilots a KC-135.

Cheryl Lynn Martin (B.F.A., fashion design '73) has been promoted to senior designer by the Salem Company, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Richard J. Pearce (M.H.A. '73) has been elevated to administrator of finance for Riverside Hospital and its associated facilities Walter Reed Hospital and Patrick Henry Hospital. The hospitals are located in Newport News and Tidewater Virginia. Pearce lives in Gloucester County.

Jacob Adebayo Ogundele (B.A., English '73) received a master's degree in education during commencement exercises at Atlanta University on May 17.

Frances Purcell O'Keefe (M.S., applied psychology '73) is a psychology instructor at Tidewater Community College. She lives in Virginia Beach, Va.

William B. (Bobby) Rutherford, Jr. (M.D. '73) has been appointed house physician at Chippenham Hospital in Richmond.

Theodore M. Sisk (B.S., business administration '73) is working as a financial analyst and commercial lending officer for First & Merchants Corporation. He lives in Sterling, Va., and is with F&M's Virginia regional credit department.

Randall H. Suslick (M.D. '73) has moved from Turnersville, N.J., to San Diego, Calif., to complete his residency training in obstetrics-gynecology at the Naval Regional Medical Center in San Diego.

Sara Kathryn Watts (B.M., applied music '73) is currently enrolled in a graduate program in violin at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City.

Sturling Ann Williams (B.S., retailing '73) lives in Chicago, where she is employed by Carson, Pirie, Scott and Company as an assistant buyer.

Jerry G. Wyatt (M.F.A., dramatic art '73) has performed the role of a Pittsylvania County, Va., Revolutionary-era hero in the county's summer bicentennial drama, *The Shirtman and the Quaker.* Wyatt, a native of the county, also played Thomas Jefferson in the musical *1776* at the Swift Creek Mill Playhouse, outside of Richmond.

Joseph Louis DeLuca (B.S., marketing '74) recently opened another Poe-Pibbley Pub, a tavern and restaurant, in Dunedin, Fla. The first was established in Port Richey, Fla., in 1974. Another VCU alumnus, **Ronald W. Hoback** (B.S., marketing '74), is also associated with the corporation.

Brenda Pace Donnelly (B.S., nursing '74), a public health nurse for Prince William County, Va., has been assigned to the city of Manassas Park.

Michael B. Elliot (B.S., biology '74) is enrolled in the School of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. His wife, **Marjorie Ann Smith Elliot** (B.S., occupational therapy '73), is a staff therapist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Tuskegee, Ala.

Bruce W. Haynes (B.A., history '74) works for the Virginia highway department as a traffic technician and is enrolled in VCU's master's program in public administration. His wife, **Nancy Walton Haynes** (M.Ed., special education '75), is a crisis teacher at Brookland Middle School, Richmond.

Alfred Bartlett Keil (B.S., marketing, '74), a member of Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity, is attending T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond. His wife, the former **Gail Gee** (B.S., occupational therapy '74), is a staff occupational therapist at the Southside Virginia Training Center in Petersburg.

Michael J. LaPenta (M.D. '74) has completed his second year of residency in family practice at the Naval Regional Medical Center in Charleston, S.C. His wife, **Dorothy Churn LaPenta** (B.S., nursing '73), is employed by the Medical University of South Carolina and is a prepared childbirth instructor for Childbirth Educators.

Patricia Gooch McClaugherty (B.F.A., interior design '74) is assistant coordinator for the Virginia Beach (Va.) Arts Center.

Edwin J. Slipek, Jr. (B.F.A., art history '74) is communications coordinator of Best Products Company. In his new position Slipek heads the Richmond-based company's public relations activities. Prior to joining Best Products on June 1, he was publications editor at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond.

Thomas B. Werz, Jr. (B.S., accounting '74) is an accountant for Reynolds Metals Company in Richmond.

Ernest Lane Whitley (B.S., business administration '74), of Ashland, Va., is a salesman for Strother Drug Company of Lynchburg, Va.

Ellis W. Cline, Jr. (M.S.W. '75) has been named court services specialist for the southwest regional office of the Virginia Department of Correction's Division of Youth Services. He resides in Marion, Va.

Amy Rose Crehore (B.F.A., communication arts and design '75) is a fashion model in New York City. She has appeared in *Vogue, Glamour, Genesis, Esquire,* and *Paris Match.*

Ryland Harvey East (B.S., pharmacy '75) is employed as a registered pharmacist at Super-X Drugs in Danville, Va.

Nancy E. Graddy (M.S.W. '75) is working in the outpatient clinic at the Norfolk (Va.) Community Mental Health Center.

Carl Jay Norton (B.S., business administration '75), a depreciation analyst with VEPCO in Richmond, is vice-president of the Alumni Corporation of Theta Delta Chi social fraternity.

Lenwood J. Oglesby (B.S., social welfare '75) has been elected president of the social work student organization at Howard University. He is also working as an intern in the office of the District of Columbia City Council.

Jerry W. Olinger (B.S., health care management '75), former administrator of the Louisa (Va.) Medical Center, has been appointed administrator of Mont Vue, a sixty-bed nursing home in Luray, Va. Olinger is the first graduate of VCU's program in health care management.

John S. Parry (M.S.W. '75) is a family crisis therapist in the emergency services-crisis unit of the Norfolk (Va.) Community Mental Health Center.

Eleanore Wells Swift (B.S., mass communications '75) is editor of the North Carolina Blue Cross and Blue Shield employee magazine. She lives in Durham, N.C.

Campus Watercolors

We still have left a few watercolor prints of campus landmarks. Barclay Sheaks, one of Virginia's foremost artists and a 1949 alumnus of RPI, was commissioned by the Alumni Activities Office to execute these lovely limited-edition watercolor prints of the Egyptian Building on the MCV Campus and the Administration Building (the old Ginter Mansion) on the Academic Campus. These individually signed reproductions are $25 apiece.

Alumni Activities Office
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia 23284

Please make checks payable to Virginia Commonwealth University

Please send me:

☐ watercolor print(s) of the Egyptian Building postpaid @ $25

☐ watercolor print(s) of the Administration Building postpaid @ $25

Name

Address

City

State Zip

1976-77 Alumni Travel Program

Athens—the cradle of civilization—is the destination of VCU's final alumni tour for 1976. The dates for our golden odyssey to Greece are October 13-21, 1976. The low price of $449 (plus a 15% tax and service charge) per person includes: round trip jet transportation aboard a chartered Trans International DC-8, deluxe accommodations at the Royal Olympic Hotel, continental breakfast daily, gourmet dinner each evening, and half-day tours of the Acropolis and the Athens Museum. Low cost optional tours are also available.

Santo Domingo, capital of the Dominican Republic, is the perfect tropical paradise for a winter vacation in the sun. The dates for our Caribbean holiday are January 3-10, 1977. The price of $299 (plus 15% tax and service charge) includes: round trip transportation aboard a Braniff International Airways jet, deluxe accommodations at the Inter-Continental Embajador Hotel, a welcome rum cocktail party, tennis, poolside chaise lounges, and admission to the Embajador's casino. Golf and low-cost optional tours are also available.

VCU alumni will have their choice of at least three other tours during 1977. We will repeat our popular tour to **Hawaii**, probably in June. We also are planning our first tours to **Switzerland** and to **East Africa**. Our trip to Zurich, Switzerland, is tentatively set for May, 1977. Our East African safari, planned for September, will include sightseeing and game viewing in Nairobi, Amboseli National Park, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tsavo, and Mombasa.

All tours depart from Dulles International Airport near Washington, D.C. The price per person is based upon double occupancy. Watch for additional details to be published in *VCU Magazine*, or contact the Alumni Activities Office, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia 23284; telephone 804/770-7125.

Virginia Commonwealth University
Alumni Activities Office
Richmond, Virginia 23284

Address Correction Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 869
Richmond, Virginia

Students' writing problems *and their diagnosis at VCU is the subject of a story beginning on page 14. The above painting by Shelly Reizenstein entitled* Some More Pencils *received a merit award in the annual juried student exhibition at Anderson Gallery.*